

THE
EDINBURGH ANNUAL REGISTER,
For 1826.

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PART I.—HISTORICAL.

CHAPTER I.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

At no period since the Revolution, were the lights and shades which distinguished the parties in and out of power more indistinct and *fadé*, than they have been for some years past. Indeed, since the last accession of Mr Canning to power, there has seemed to be an almost complete obliteration of *ancient* party distinctions. Ministers, by very rapid strides, had *liberalized* their whole system; but, above all, they had succeeded in convincing the people of their anxious desire to lessen the public burdens, by every safe and practicable measure of economy and retrenchment. Real practical evils, whether in the administration of justice, or in the collection of the revenue, instead of being defended or palliated, were discouraged or remedied by them; and, instead of resisting every proposed measure which partook of the nature of change—fixing the country down to a point beyond which it could not advance, they gave full scope and encouragement to the temperate spirit of real improvement. By their measures, in short, so congenial to the feelings of the well-informed

of all classes, they had conciliated and gained the support of public opinion; and, as a consequence, in the midst of distress, arising from the depression of trade, more general and intense than had ever before afflicted the nation, not a murmur of disaffection was to be heard from one end of the kingdom to another.

A Ministry so popular had nothing to dread from the efforts of Opposition. It had long been apparent that, from causes which already have been sufficiently investigated, the Opposition could have no rational hopes, either from its connexion with the aristocracy, any hold it possessed of the public mind, or any possible parliamentary strategy, of supplanting the party in power. So conscious was the Opposition itself of this, that in 1819, in an evil hour, it formed an alliance with the Ultra-Reform or Radical party, with the idea that popular fury might effect for the party what the inclinations of the Monarch, and the good sense of the nation forbade. But, since then, the paternal spirit of the Government had operated a mighty

change in the minds of the populace, who had deserted the standard of the Opposition, and gone over to that of the Ministry; and the former party now stood alone, without a single effective ally. Its occupation, as an Opposition, was confined to urging sweeping improvements, which could not be undertaken without imminent hazard, and to claiming credit as being the originators of every liberal measure brought forward under Ministerial auspices. In general, however, the Opposition gave a cordial, and, at least apparently, disinterested support to Ministers; to account for which, we must notice a great political change which, ever since the peace, had been silently operating in the opinions of the people.

While ancient distinctions were fast disappearing, the nation at large was gradually dividing itself into two new and very opposite parties, which we, in conformity to common parlance, shall denominate the Liberal and Anti-Liberal party;—the former being intent upon such changes in our institutions as, in their judgment, would be prudent and salutary; the other having a more than Locrian antipathy to, and a sort of instinctive dread of all changes whatever. The latter are, necessarily, the champions of every existing abuse, and of every antiquated absurdity, no matter how revolting to the common sense of mankind; and apply, in all cases, the poet's maxim with regard to the dispensations of Providence, "whatever is, is right," to the political arrangements of society. In their horror of innovation, they forget that the institutions and usages they defend are only innovations upon others still more ancient; that but for changes society never would have been moulded into its present form; and that if maxims are to be venerated in proportion to their antiquity, we must seek for the *beau idéal* of government in the savage

state. They deride, too, all theories in government and political economy; forgetting that there is no existing positive law or rule whatever, which is not bottomed on some theory or other. Before any society became artificial, its members must have been theorists; for why did they subject themselves to regulations at all, but upon the theory that such regulations would conduce to their common advantage? It is very remarkable—and we would have the Anti-Liberals to reflect upon it—that when a nation first ventures upon experiments in political economy, to procure to itself advantages which would not accrue to it in the natural course of things, it is sure to err more egregiously than if it trusted to the suggestions of its own common sense. This is very easily accounted for. The rulers of a semi-civilized country are very apt to imagine, that there are arcana in the art of governing beyond the ken of ordinary mortals; and, on the most crude and undigested speculations of utility, they set about constraining everything out of its natural channel, in order to produce artificially most mighty results. Consider what were the commercial regulations of England, in the time of the Plantagenets, and say, whether the most savage tribe of South Sea islanders, who barter their pigs and poultry for the veriest baubles, are so absurdly governed, in matters of commerce, as England was at the period we have alluded to! However, it is the very theories founded in semi-barbarous times, that our Anti-Liberals, by decrying all theories, would wish to perpetuate. If the political economy of modern times has credit for any one thing in particular, it is for having uprooted the theories engendered by the pseudo-wisdom of barbarous ages, and the equally spurious philosophy which succeeded it; and for having referred the utility of all regulations to the

standard of common sense and experience. That modern political economy is marked by a certain degree of fanaticism and folly, we do not deny—that it is so marked, we shall soon have occasion to assert; but here lies the most extraordinary error of the Anti-Liberal party, that, while at perfect liberty to reject both, they, while affecting to condemn all theories, most pertinaciously and bigotedly (reason not in the least influencing their choice) adhere to such only as were elaborated, when governments, most imperfectly informed, began, for the first time, and without the necessary data, to speculate upon the subjects which pertain to the science of Government, and absolutely reject those which persons in modern times, availing themselves of the accumulated experience of ages, and with more matured reflection, have attempted to establish—not that such theories are false, but simply because they are new.

It may be seriously questioned, whether a party, professing dogmas so irrational and hostile to the spirit of advancement, which is the animating principle of a free state, would ever have attained much consideration, had it not been that it had its representatives and champions in the Cabinet, as the Liberal party had also its. In truth, between the two parties the Cabinet was fairly divided; and the preponderance of either had become an object of the same importance and concern to the nation, as the relative strength of the Whig and Tory parties used to be formerly. It was evident that the two Ministerial parties could not long cohere; and that on either obtaining a decided ascendancy, the one set of principles would necessarily vanquish the other.

Of the Anti-Liberal party in the Cabinet, at the head of which was the Lord Chancellor, it may be observed that most of its members were men

who had been adopted into office since the breaking out of the French revolutionary war, with the stupendous incidents connected with which, and calculations regarding its final result, their minds had been wholly engrossed. Even had they had any natural aptitude for acquiring the art of governing, which is much to be doubted, the nature of their education had perverted or destroyed it. Their maxims of government, whether in peace or war, seemed to be summed up in the single word COERCION. Certain it is, that in no single instance did they ever display the slightest acquaintance with the science or the systems which it was their custom to deride; and it could not but be remarked by the public, that, with all their horror of innovation, they had never resisted, but, on the contrary, been at all times the foremost to propose and advocate any change (whether salutary or not, is not at present the question,) which had a tendency to impair a popular privilege, however ancient, or to give a new increase to the Crown's influence or prerogative. Add to all this, the whole of them, with the exception of Lord Eldon, were men of the slenderest natural talents; and the all-engrossing cares of his judicial office, it must be admitted, had disqualified him for being a statesman, and made him a bigot.

The Liberal party in the Cabinet, again, included and was headed by individuals of the most distinguished talents the nation could boast of.—Mr Canning and Mr Huskisson, men of comprehensive and vigorous minds, exempt from the common prejudices of caste and party; and whose bearings were all towards the side of civil and religious liberty, the connexion between which and a nation's prosperity, they perceived and were sensible of. In short, their principles and sentiments may be described as being truly and essentially English.

It was objected to these statesmen,

particularly Mr Huskisson, that they had become disciples of a certain school of political economy, the dogmatism and extravagance of some of whose doctrines—their untenable nature, so revolting to all established opinions, had justly brought it into discredit and ridicule. Its upholders, in the vain desire of transcending in ingenuity those who had preceded them, were constantly inventing new theories, most irreconcilable with each other, and opposed to the every-day observations of the rest of mankind. At the bottom of all their speculations, there seemed to be this strange *postulatum*, that man was a being purely of reason, without any heart, and possessed at most of only the passion or instinct of SELFISHNESS. It never occurred to them that man has a variety of passions and affections, which it would be impeaching the wisdom of the Author of his being to suppose he could divest himself of, with advantage to himself; and that these not unfrequently turn awry, control, and even subdue, his selfishness; and at all times will and must materially influence the conduct and course of human affairs. By them, therefore, were mankind addressed as a set of beings altogether intellectual, only that they were inspired with selfishness, the indulgence of which was made to constitute their *summum bonum* on earth; all as if society had never profited by the disinterestedness, the patriotism, or any of the other virtues springing from the affections of its members. With such opinions of mankind, these economists conceived that they could be brought to renounce, without reluctance, all their preconceived opinions, (feelings and attachments they were supposed to be without,) at the mere *fiat* of philosophy; and, from deference to the same authority, and in despite of all previous habits, at once to abjure ancient theories and systems, and reconcile themselves

to new and untried ones. Another great error of the sect was, that all their maxims were unqualified and absolute, they making no allowance for the force of circumstances, arising out of the artificial arrangements of society, by which principles, the very truest in the abstract, must occasionally be controlled, if both danger to the state and injustice to individuals are to be avoided; and their doctrines being thus unsafe and uncompromising, were utterly impracticable.

It was under the tutelage of this fanatical sect, as we said before, that Mr Canning and Mr Huskisson were accused of having placed themselves—an imputation which had no other ground to rest upon than the ignorance and bigotry of their opponents; for nothing could be more remote and foreign than an addiction to new-fangled doctrines and theories was to the character of these two statesmen, whose public lives had been spent almost entirely in combating the many specious novelties in political science, which the spirit of the times had engendered. In two points only did they agree with the new school—in not believing that the whole of our system was absolutely perfect, and in believing that it admitted of some safe and salutary improvements; points upon which persons may conscientiously agree, while they as conscientiously differ as to the nature and extent of the defects, and also as to the extent and nature of the remedies.

There was a middle party in the Cabinet, by which alone the two antagonist portions of it were held together in unnatural union. It may be said to have entirely consisted of the Premier, Lord Liverpool, and the Home Secretary, Mr Peel, who, though classed, in common parlance, with the Anti-Liberal party, chiefly from their hostility to Catholic Emancipation, possessed a vigour of understanding which rejected the puerilities of their Anti-Liberal col-

leagues; and, in most controverted questions, whether of domestic or foreign policy, they supported the views of the Liberal party. By this support, that party obtained the virtual ascendancy, and were enabled to give a tone of their own to the general measures of Government.

The Whigs, as we observed before, being estranged in affection both from the Crown and the people, had their whole hopes concentrated in the chance of some open schism between the two parties in the Cabinet; and the natural course for them to pursue, was to strengthen the Liberal one, whose principles best accorded with their own, in order to ensure the ultimate discomfiture of the Anti-Liberal one, between whom and themselves there were irreconcilable differences both of opinion and sentiment. In supporting the Ministry, then, in its general policy, they, in fact, only supported one of the parties composing it, and secretly, but very effectually, combated the other.

Such was the state of parties when Parliament met on 2d February. It was opened by Commission; on which occasion Lord Gifford, (the Lord Chancellor being absent, from indisposition,) as one of the Commissioners, delivered the following speech to both Houses:

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"We are commanded by his Majesty to inform you, that his Majesty has seen with regret the embarrassment which has occurred in the pecuniary transactions of the country since the close of the last session of Parliament.

"This embarrassment did not arise from any political events, either at home or abroad: it was not produced by any unexpected demand upon the public resources, nor by the apprehension of any interruption to the general tranquillity.

"Some of the causes to which this evil must be attributed lie without the

reach of direct Parliamentary interposition, nor can a security against the recurrence of them be found, unless in the experience of the sufferings which they have occasioned.

"But to a certain portion of this evil, correctives at least, if not effectual remedies, may be applied; and his Majesty relies upon your wisdom to devise such measures as may tend to protect both private and public interests against the like sudden and violent fluctuations, by placing on a more firm foundation the currency and circulating credit of the country.

"His Majesty continues to receive from his Allies, and generally from all Foreign Princes and States, the strongest assurances of their friendly disposition towards his Majesty. His Majesty on his part is constant and unwearied in his endeavours to reconcile conflicting interests, and to recommend and cultivate peace both in the Old World and in the New.

"His Majesty commands us to inform you, that, in pursuance of this policy, his Majesty's mediation has been successfully employed in the conclusion of a treaty between the crowns of Portugal and Brazil, by which the relations of friendly intercourse, long interrupted between two kindred nations, have been restored, and the independence of the Brazilian empire has been formally acknowledged.

"His Majesty loses no opportunity of giving effect to the principles of trade and navigation, which have received the sanction of Parliament, and of establishing them, as far as possible, by engagements with foreign powers.

"His Majesty has directed to be laid before you a copy of a Convention, framed on these principles, which has recently been concluded between his Majesty and the King of France; and of a similar Convention, with the free Hanseatic cities of Lubeck, Bremen, and Hamburg.

"His Majesty has likewise directed to be laid before you a copy of a treaty of amity, commerce, and navigation, concluded between his Majesty and the Republic of Colombia; the ratifications of which have been exchanged since the close of the last session. For the carrying into effect some of the stipulations of this treaty, his Majesty will have need of your assistance.

"His Majesty regrets that he has not to announce to you the termination of hostilities in India; but the operations of the last campaign, through the bravery of the forces of his Majesty, and of the East India Company, and the skill and perseverance of their commanders, have been attended with uniform success; and his Majesty trusts that a continuance of the same exertions may lead, at no distant period, to an honourable and satisfactory pacification.

"His Majesty's attention has been directed to the consideration of several measures, recommended in the last session of Parliament, for improving the condition of Ireland.

"The industry of that part of the United Kingdom, his Majesty has the satisfaction of acquainting you, is in a course of gradual and general advancement—an advancement mainly to be attributed to that state of tranquillity which now happily prevails throughout all the provinces of Ireland.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"His Majesty has directed the estimates for the year to be prepared and laid before you.

"They have been framed with an anxious desire to avoid every expenditure beyond what the necessary demands of the public service may require.

"His Majesty has the satisfaction of informing you, that the produce of the revenue, in the last year, has fully

justified the expectations entertained at the commencement of it.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

"His Majesty deeply laments the injurious effects which the late pecuniary crisis must have entailed upon many branches of the commerce and manufactures of the United Kingdom; but his Majesty confidently believes, that the temporary check which commerce and manufactures may at this moment experience, will, under the blessing of Divine Providence, neither impair the great sources of our wealth, nor impede the growth of national prosperity."

In the House of Lords, the Earl of Verulam, in rising to move the address, observed, that on all material points, the state of the nation afforded sufficient grounds for congratulation. Whatever unfavourable circumstances he had to notice, were of a temporary nature; he had no long series of national calamities to deplore, no protracted war to lament. But it was not to be expected that there should be no disagreeable feature in the picture. "Man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward," and every state of things was liable to uncertainty and change. Accordingly, the first topic of the Speech, and the first to which he should allude, related to the late extraordinary and unexpected panic, which had occurred in the pecuniary transactions of the country. It was the more unexpected, because it occurred at a moment when the prosperity of the country appeared at its height, and when money abounded to an uncommon extent. It seemed easy to obtain money for any purpose, and he believed it was the difficulty which capitalists experienced in obtaining adequate interest for their money, which had led to the wild speculations which had taken place. Their

lordships, he observed, ought to turn their attention speedily to the great objects recommended by his Majesty—the placing the credit of the country on a more firm foundation. The termination of hostilities in India has not been announced. This war had not for its object any extension of our empire in India; its only purpose was to obtain secure and honourable peace. The improving state of Ireland offered a further topic for congratulation, as did also his Majesty's assurance, that his Majesty continued to receive from his allies, and generally from all foreign powers, assurances of a friendly disposition.—The noble earl concluded by moving an address, congratulating his Majesty on the statements contained in his Speech.

Lord Sheffield seconded the address.

Lord King observed that the causes of the present embarrassments were in some degree to be attributed to the government, in a greater degree to the country banks, and in a still greater to the Bank of England. He blamed the government for having by their measures extended the circulation of L.1 and L.2 notes; he blamed them for listening to the bankers, and acceding to the Small Note bill; but the Bank of England was most to blame. Under the present system the Bank was a machine, the effects of which must necessarily be mischievous. The Bank was much too vast to be rightly conducted. If their lordships looked back to what had happened, they would find that the Bank had been, if not principals, accessories in every pecuniary embarrassment. At the end of 1824, and the beginning of 1825, the Bank very considerably increased their issues. For this he had the authority of Mr Tooke, as given in the book lately published by that gentleman. The average of the weekly returns for each of the three years, ending in April, 1825, were there stated as follows:—

April, 1823 . .	£17,750,473
April, 1824 . .	19,011,575
April, 1825 . .	20,881,123

It thus appeared “that an increase in the banking circulation of 3 millions had taken place in the year ending in April 1825, as compared with the circulation in the year ending April 1823.” He believed the noble lord (Liverpool) would very willingly put down this system, but the fact was, the Bank was too strong for him; and besides, the country gentlemen wished to keep up their rents and prices, but they could not do this without the small notes, and these the noble lord durst not refuse to them. The fact was, the present ministers did not possess the power and vigour of the man in whose footsteps they pretended to follow. They had heard much of jobs, but the corn laws were the most enormous job in the whole history of misrule. There was the West India job, but that only made sugar dearer. Then there was the East India job, which once monopolized all the trade of the Indian and Chinese seas. But neither of those jobs equalled this. The Bourbons had always been famed for their monopolies, but all their monopolies were as nothing to the monopoly of the landed interest of England. It was worthwhile to observe, that the government of this country and their lordships were never slow in punishing the breakers of machines. Why were they so? Because they knew that machines rendered labour cheap. But if it were good to have machines for that purpose, it was also good to have cheap food. In his opinion, nothing but a revision of the corn laws could extend and perpetuate the prosperity of the country.—His lordship concluded, by moving that a paragraph be added to the address, pledging the House to revise the present corn laws, as the best means of extending the commerce and prosperity of the kingdom.

Earl Grosvenor saw nothing in the state of the country to encourage the hope which the Speech held out, although its general tone was most humble. They all knew that there had been no addition to the revenue in the last year. And he contended, that a failure in the duties was occasioned by the embarrassments produced throughout the country; and he would, therefore, enforce upon ministers the necessity of adopting measures of economy. He maintained, that at the time of the peace no reason whatever existed for the non-reduction of the army. The state of Ireland rendered it necessary, it was said, to maintain three-fourths of the army in that country alone. But their lordships knew why; they had last session rejected the bill which would have removed the great source of discord in that country.

Lord Teynham opposed the amendment.

The Marquis of Lansdowne did not rise for the purpose of discussing the unfortunate topic which formed so prominent a part of the Speech, for it would be impossible for the House to enter upon that topic now, without having received any information respecting the nature of the views or intentions of government. It was a subject upon which he could not say anything, without saying a great deal: he would not, therefore, now attempt to inquire how far that measure would be obliged to receive reconsideration, which authorized the issuing of L.1 and L.2 notes; or how far the present embarrassments were owing to that measure, and the other laws relating to Banks, and to the monopoly of the Bank of England; or how far any of these causes had produced a considerable part of the evil now admitted to exist. All he meant to do at present, was to claim a complete reserve on the part of himself and of the House as to their opinion respecting the possibility of the applica-

tion of any corrective, or of that in particular which seemed to be contemplated by government. The same observation applied to the corn laws, as to the state of the currency as well as of prices in this country.

The Earl of Liverpool said, that after the statement made by the noble marquis, he would trouble their lordships with a short statement. In the first place, however, he would call their attention to this circumstance, that the convulsions in the pecuniary transactions of the country were not attributable to him or the other members of government. There was one cause so prominent, so great in magnitude, that it was sufficient to account for all that had happened. Their lordships knew the general spirit of mad speculation which had prevailed in the country during the last two years, and that this spirit was not confined to the metropolis, but was extending itself over all the country, through the medium of public banks. All country bank notes must be stamped, and it appeared from a return from the Stamp office, that in the years 1821, 1822, and 1823, the average number of notes stamped in each year was four millions and one or two hundred thousand. In 1824, the amount of country bank notes increased to about L.6,000,000; and in 1825 it increased to about L.8,000,000, being double what it was in 1821, 1822, 1823. The noble lord who commenced the debate had accused ministers of having participated in causing the existing embarrassments, by endeavouring to lower the rate of interest; but what were the facts? There was a rise in the price of public securities, and a lower rate of interest, the consequences of continued peace, and the prosperity of the country. Government would have been highly blameable if they had not taken advantage of those favourable circumstances in order to reduce the burdens of the people. By the mea-

asures which government adopted, they had been able to take off L.1,800,000 of taxes, and to reduce the interest of the national debt, L.1,400,000 a-year. He agreed with that part of the Speech which stated, that for the effects of overtrading, and rash speculation growing out of the prosperity of the country, no cure could be found in legislation. But undoubtedly he likewise concurred with the declaration in it, that correctives and palliatives might and ought to be applied to present distress. The measures which would be brought forward were none which had not been proposed before. From what causes they had failed, was a question which at that moment it was not necessary to discuss. The putting of some check in one way or other, on the issue of small notes, was a plan suggested by his noble friend (Lord Bexley); so, likewise, was an arrangement with the Bank of England, having for its object to alter the situation in which that establishment stood with the public. One of the measures which government would submit for the consideration of Parliament, was a regulation by which the one and two pound bank-notes would be gradually withdrawn from circulation, and a metallic currency substituted for them. Another measure related to the Bank of England. The privilege of the Bank might have been highly useful in the early period of the history of our commercial transactions, but he was convinced that the country was now too large for any one such exclusive establishment. The Bank privilege operated in a most extraordinary and unfortunate manner for the country. Any low person, any small tradesman, a cheesemonger, a butcher, or a shoemaker, might open a country bank; but a set of persons with fortunes sufficient to carry on the concern with security, were not permitted to do so. That was its actual operation. If the Bank could be induced to give up so

much of their exclusive privilege as related to country banks, and if they would accompany that surrender by a measure which he thought would be desirable for their own sakes, namely, the establishment in some parts of the country of branches of their own institution, the effect on the general circulation of the country would be most beneficial. With respect to the corn laws, his opinion was, that, sooner or later, it would be highly desirable to revise the general system of those laws. There was, however, a variety of circumstances to be taken into consideration with regard to time. He had no difficulty in stating, that it was not his intention, nor that of any member of his majesty's government, to bring forward any proposition with regard to the general question during the present session. •

The Earl of Caernarvon doubted whether the gradual withdrawal of the one and two pound bank-notes would have all the beneficial effect which the noble earl anticipated. It was impossible to pay in gold a debt contracted in paper.

The Earl of Lauderdale said, he had always been of opinion that a paper currency, convertible into gold on demand, was that which was best adapted for a transaction of the business of a country.

The amendment was negatived, and the address agreed to without a division.

In the House of Commons, Mr J. Stuart Wortley rose to move the address. In adverting to the Speech, the first subject that arrested his attention was the great slack which the country had lately sustained in its mercantile transactions. But he would ask if there was, especially at the present moment, any reason for alarm? In his conscience he believed not: the crisis seemed now to have passed. The present was not the only period in

which mercantile affairs had been disordered. Similar difficulties had occurred in 1793 and 1798. At the commencement of the last year, there was an apparent redundancy of capital, which induced the employment of it in speculative loans, and in schemes of remote and uncertain profit; this was a great and a leading cause of the recent commercial calamity. Another cause was to be found in the circumstance of many of the foreign exchanges being against this country. To these causes was to be added another and a proximate one, namely, the failure of several country banks. All these were temporary, and a corrective might be found for them, in giving up those plans of wild and extravagant speculation in which they originated. With respect to the currency, from whatever cause the present state of it arose, it required some alteration, and strongly called for the interposition of Parliament. In those periods of commercial distress to which he had before alluded, 1793 and 1798, Parliament did interfere, and interfered with effect. The manner in which country bankers issued their notes called strongly for the attention of the House. It was, in his opinion, little less than a fraud to issue notes without having a security equal to the amount of the issue. He could not forbear expressing on this occasion, the great gratitude which the country owed to the Bank of England for the manner in which they acted on the late crisis. In reviewing the causes in which the distress originated, he should not omit to notice the effect of the repeal of the combination laws. The combination among the workmen which had reached so alarming an extent, had now subsided. The commercial regulations which had been formed with foreign nations were most creditable to this country, and likely to confer great and general blessings. The commer-

cial treaty with France was highly calculated to give effect to those principles of trade and navigation which Parliament had previously sanctioned. That Convention, as well as the Treaty of Amity, between this country and Colombia, was equally creditable and beneficial, not so much for the stipulations it contained, as for the enlarged principle of policy in which it was conceived and executed. Another topic of congratulation in the Speech, was the mediation successfully employed in the conclusion of a treaty between the Crowns of Portugal and Brazil. With reference to the war that we had been carrying on in the East, the disadvantages to which we had been exposed, had originated principally from the climate. He had great pleasure in referring the House to another part of his Majesty's Speech, by which they would find that the revenue of the country answered the expectation of Ministers. He would now refer to a subject which never failed to excite the liveliest feelings in the House—he alluded to the state of Ireland. From every report received from that country, it appeared that she was disengaging herself from the evils under which she had laboured, industry was diffusing itself throughout all her provinces, and he need not state, that industry was the never-failing precursor of tranquillity. Reviewing, therefore, the general state of the empire, and the public transactions of the preceding year, he did not hesitate to call upon the House for its Address to the Throne—not in any spirit of servility, but in a spirit of pure loyalty, and with reference to the satisfactory state of the country.

Mr Green, in reference to the late commercial shocks, contrasted the state of the country in 1793, when a war had commenced, and its state at present; and observed that, with all the difference, there was one point of

strong similarity both in 1792, and in the year now last past,—the interest of money had been unusually low. In 1792 the manufactures of the country had been rapidly advancing; and the general prosperity was such as induced many individuals to trade beyond their capital. The country banks at that time had not the power of issuing small notes, but those which they were empowered to issue they had sent out to a vast and dangerous excess. The consequence was, that the country was glutted with paper. A slight apprehension produced immediate pressure upon those who were believed least able to sustain it; and the stoppage of these pulled down others who were solvent. The failure of one man, of necessity, led, on and on, to the failure of some other; and out of a mischief, in many cases imaginary, real mischief was created. Now let the House observe how nearly this state of things in 1792, allied with the state of affairs perceptible at the opening of the last session of Parliament. Whatever might be done to prevent the recurrence of such convulsions, Parliament would recollect that it was one of its first duties to leave the freedom of trade untouched. With the immediate nature of the remedies to be applied, he would not then busy himself; but the House would recollect that the same remedies were not now likely to be applicable which had been resorted to in 1793. For himself, he thought it would be a great boon on the part of the Bank, if that body should waive some portion of its charter, and permit the formation of joint-stock banking companies. Scotland already afforded us an example of the safety and convenience of this system. Scotland had a large paper currency; and neither felt difficulty nor experienced apprehension. Although no man could feel more anxious than he did to afford every possible facility and liberty to

trade, yet it did seem to him that some restriction might be beneficially devised to keep within due limits the issues of the banks. As regarded the issue of local notes, there could be no doubt that some immediate measure was imperatively called for.—If there had been some distress felt during the last year in Ireland as in England, at least there was every token of material improvement. The arrangement of tithes had been rendered less irksome than before. Education was making rapid progress. The House, moreover, had the happiness of finding that manufacturers were readily carrying their raw material to Ireland. Capital was flowing into the country, and employment—which was all that Ireland wanted; nor did he (Mr Green) despair to find, in a short time, the landholders finding it their happiness, as well as their interest, to establish themselves on their estates; and Ireland, as well as England, enjoying the advantage of a resident gentry. After noticing the satisfactory state of our foreign relations, the honourable gentleman concluded by seconding the address.

Mr Brougham rose merely to guard himself against its being assumed, only because he did not dissent from the address, that he therefore assented to any of the statements, or concurred in any of the doctrines laid down in it. He was inclined to think that the country would be very little satisfied to find the distress under which it laboured treated so lightly, as in the address now proposed. It was mentioned as something not universal—not very serious; and confined pretty nearly to one branch of the commercial interests of England; whereas he believed that it was most serious, widely spread, and not confined to any single branch of trade, but extending over a very great many, if not over all the most important trading relations of the kingdom. Yet there was one fact which pleased

him, as it showed clearly, if any argument were wanting to show, that truth, that the distress, whatever might be the cause of it, was in no way owing to that more liberal system of commercial policy which had lately received the approbation of Parliament. If the distress under which the country suffered had been confined to the silk trade, some argument might have been raised—that the new regulations in that trade had produced it: but as cotton, wool, linen, and various other branches of trade in the country, were suffering in an equal, some in a greater degree than silk, it would be quite in vain to charge the new law (which, moreover, had not yet come into operation) with having had any share in creating calamity. In the midst of all that suffering, it was a most painful thing to tell people that their distresses were in any degree to be imputed to themselves; but it was his duty to say, that in his opinion, the root of the distress in the silk-trade, as well as most other trades, arose from over-trading. He would select two examples at once—the first opening of the new branches of trade to South America; and the opening of the Continent afterwards, in 1814. The last of these transactions had led to such an excess of exportation, that merchants had actually re-imported their own goods from Holland to this country, as a measure of less loss than the selling them abroad. And, in the former, iron, saddles, skates, and hardware of every description, had been sent over, until, in many cases, the proceeds scarcely had paid shipping charges and insurance.—Apart, however, from the question of trade, there were certain other topics, touched upon in the Speech and address, which he found it necessary very shortly to notice. These were—our debt—our currency—and the state of Ireland. The debt was out of our reach; but the other two evils—the currency and Ireland—

were not so. To these two evils, then, it behoved the House to pay immediate attention. Now, when he heard it said that Ireland had been perfectly quiet and prosperous, he thought that the cause lay in her expectation that something would be done for her: and he trusted, that, at a fit and convenient season, she would find that she had not waited patiently in vain. If Ireland did look in vain to us for justice, in the proper season, we should soon again look in vain to her for tranquillity. He believed that the tranquillity of Ireland was mainly attributed to the measures of the Catholic Association. He had listened with pleasure to that portion of the address which referred to South America. It was matter of pride and pleasure to reflect on the glory achieved by the inhabitants of those republics—men who, unaided, had the good fortune to succeed in establishing their independence, and freeing themselves, at once and for ever, from a detestable yoke. That we should soon have united to us by treaties similar to that of Colombia, and all the other great republics in that part of the new world, who had achieved their liberties, was his most sincere and ardent wish, as their independence must afford matter of pure and sincere delight to every friend of freedom. There was another point to which he thought it necessary to allude—namely, the treaty pending between this country and the empire of Brazil. He was glad to hear that this treaty was not ratified; and most devoutly hoped that it never would be. By this treaty, the contracting parties bound themselves to give up to each other, not merely felons, as persons guilty of coining, fraudulent bankruptcy, or murder, but also, what was a widely different and a new stipulation, to shelter no persons accused of high treason. Now this undertaking would not only compel us to retain upon our statute-book, the Alien Law, but it

might also bind us to execute it against an individual who should be accused of the slightest political offence, or who might only be politically obnoxious.—Much had been said upon the proceedings of the Bank of England during the late agitations in the various classes of property in the country. Without wishing to throw blame upon the conduct of that body, he could not help expressing his conviction that an end must come to that system which excited so powerful an influence at present, not only on the money-market, but on the whole trade of the country.

Mr Robertson considered the present embarrassments in the several interests as so many unavoidable consequences of that policy which had directed the public councils, and which was now of ten years' duration. Should the government persevere in it, the existing calamities would be no more than a gradual approach to the crisis—they had gone but a step only in the ways of adversity, unless they recurred to a different line of policy. He took the excess of the exports over the imports, since the peace, at L.189,000,000, for which no return had been made to this country to compensate the loss endured. And yet this was but a gradual advance to what must be expected from perseverance in the same system. At the close of the war, and in the first year of the peace, the excess of exports above imports was only L.13,000,000: last year it was L.24,000,000. Could any country live and thrive under this annual expenditure? When Mr Pitt governed the country the state of things was something like this:—From the American peace to the French war, the excess of exports was about L.600,000 a-year. This expenditure was readily accounted for by the pay of ambassadors, and other functionaries, together with the expense of establishments abroad; so that it would be readily shown that not a single pound sterling

left the country, for which another pound did not come in.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer confessed that he did not clearly comprehend the speech of his honourable friend, (Mr Robertson,) which seemed, however, to contain some propositions rather of a startling nature; for, if, he understood him rightly, his argument was, that the greater part of the distresses of the country was to be attributed to the excess of its exports,—and then, again, his greatest dread seemed to be the excess of its imports. How to reconcile such seeming contradictions, he must leave to the ingenious and speculative mind of his honourable friend. With regard to the speech of the learned gentleman (Mr Brougham)—with whatever candour he had commented on some parts of the Speech,—he might have forbore from making one or two observations which had escaped from him. He was not justified in imputing to Ministers a charge of treating too lightly the distresses which so unfortunately prevailed. He (the Chancellor) could solemnly assure the House, that nothing was farther from the feelings or intentions of his Majesty's advisers, than to treat the subject lightly. He should have thought that the best proof of a contrary sentiment pervading the breasts of Ministers, was to be found in the fact of their placing that topic in the very front of the Royal Speech. There was, however, no ground for despondency, notwithstanding the present condition of the country. If they referred to the distresses which prevailed in 1816, they would see how soon the country arose out of them in the following year; the extreme pressure in the one year was followed in the other by a rapid reaction of a contrary kind: and this occurred without laws, or violence of any kind, from the very nature of the thing itself. It was, he thought, clear that the great proportion of all the public

difficulties had arisen from causes beyond human control; and he was satisfied that the man who would legislate on a different assumption, would find himself miserably disappointed. When he said this, he begged to be understood, that undoubtedly there were cases in which it was competent for Parliament to interpose, and where it was necessary and useful to call for that interposition. Amongst these cases was that of a currency, so mixed as that the part of it, consisting of paper, greatly exceeded the amount of specie. Under such circumstances, it was clear that the tendency of the paper proportion of the circulating medium was to increase, and that without reference to consequences, and when the state of commerce did not necessarily require that increase. This was precisely what had happened in this country, more particularly with regard to the circulation of the country banks. Of the actual state of the circulation of the country banks it was difficult to form an accurate estimate; but he found that in 1820 the issue of the country banks had been three millions and a half; in 1821, it was four millions and a half; and, in 1825, it had arisen to no less a sum than eight millions and a half. The inevitable result of this operation must be to produce a rise in prices, which naturally extended a spirit of speculation. But this was not all the evil which this system of circulation produced; a great deal of difficulty arose from the one pound notes, and notes of small denomination, which, from the smallness of their amount, circulated among the poorer classes, upon whom they entailed the heaviest affliction when the time of revulsion or stoppage arrived. When one of these banks broke, thousands of poor people lost their all, and were visited with the most heart-rending affliction. A great deal was said of the benefit to trade, from the circulation of these

banks; but he would boldly ask, what advantage had been conferred off agriculture, what advantage on commerce, what benefit, in fact, upon the community at large, allowing the summing up of all its alleged advantages, which could at all be compared to the ruin of its reaction at a moment of panic, and the wide-spreading evils which its sudden depreciation inflicted? What real or apparent benefit (and it was more apparent than real) could compensate for the poverty and misery to which it thus ultimately consigned so large a portion of the honest working classes of the community, who possessed nothing for their labour or their sustenance besides the worthless piece of paper bearing the impress of the local bank? Upon the fullest consideration which he had been able to give to the matter, he came to the conclusion, that it was indispensably necessary to apply an immediate and effectual remedy to that great source of public mischief. And it was to him a source of regret, that in the arrangements respecting the currency in 1822, the original intention of putting an end to the indulgence in 1825 had been abandoned: but what had passed since had more fully confirmed him in the opinion that they must now have recourse to a firm and decided measure, for the purpose of placing the currency and credit of the country upon a solid and durable basis. This still would not have the effect of preventing a recurrence of the evil, without another measure, which was at least equally important—he alluded to the exclusive privileges of the Bank of England, as their charter now stood. It was impossible for any man who considered the extent of the public transactions of this great kingdom, not to see that a single chartered banking company, however well constituted, was inadequate to execute all the functions of banker for the state. The town basi-

ness—that immediately on the spot—they could conduct, undoubtedly, in the present manner; but not so throughout the country. Country banks had become necessary, in consequence of the exclusive privileges of the Bank of England and the growing wants of the public. And from these very circumstances, the country banks had been so constituted, that they were deprived of much of the solidity of what ought to belong to a banking system; and, in fact, the effect of the exclusive privileges had been, to foster every species of country banks, save those of the most solid and durably beneficial character. This state of things at length required a better remedy than it had hitherto received. Indeed, for some time, it had attracted the attentive consideration of government. Two years back they had commenced a negotiation with the Bank, with a view of inducing that company to forego a part of their privileges. Their charter would expire in 1833, and the Bank offered to relinquish some of its privileges, provided the charter were extended to 1843. They agreed to allow other chartered companies, within the present prohibited distance, at once, provided the extension of the charter was conceded. This, however, the government refused to call upon Parliament to grant, but rather pressed upon the Bank the greater advantage which the company would obtain in the administration of their own affairs, by the increased safety and security which would generally result from the adoption of the plan then under contemplation. The government had lately again pressed this matter upon the consideration of the Bank. The manner in which the Bank Directors had met the proposition deserved the highest credit. The Directors had acquiesced in the proposition made by ministers, which they intended immediately to submit to the consideration of

a court of proprietors. The plan, if carried into effect, would place the banking system of this country upon the same footing as in Ireland, where companies were allowed to establish banks, with any number of partners, fifty miles from the capital. The distance would be sixty-five miles in England; and at that distance, it would be competent to establish banking companies with an unlimited number of partners. He could not refrain, on the present occasion, from stating at once what were the general views of government—what they felt to be the main causes of the existing difficulties of the country, and the measures which they thought best calculated to obviate their recurrence, or mitigate their injurious effects. He had himself assumed that the revenue of 1825 would be L.500,000 or L.600,000 less than that of 1824, and he had proposed a repeal of L.650,000 worth of taxes in the current year; so that his calculation would have held good, if the receipts at the end of the year 1825, as compared with those of 1824, showed a diminution of L.1,200,000. In addition to that reduction from the source he had named, another important defalcation of revenue had arisen out of the alteration in the duties on wines, and the repayment or allowance of L.1,050,000 upon that account: so that if the latter cause had not existed, the revenue of 1825 would have exceeded by the same amount that of 1824. However, notwithstanding all these reductions, the revenue of 1825 showed an excess above the preceding year of L.200,000. The terms, then, in which the subject was mentioned in the King's speech, conveyed at least no exaggeration. Though he and his colleagues in the government were taunted by the honourable gentleman (Mr Robertson) with having lost the countenance of some of their oldest friends, and being cast for support

upon their usual opponents on the other side of the house, still he should say that *they were cheered by an honest and effective co-operation*. Nor would the honourable member's taunt drive him to reject the assistance of honourable gentlemen opposite, who had the generosity and candour to give him their aid in this branch of his policy, and who could have no imaginable motive for taking such a part, save disinterested attachment to the true interests and welfare of their country. It was, then, with the highest-satisfaction that he found the principal men of every party in politics ready to give him their support in this branch of the public policy.

Mr Ellice did not intend to object to the plan of the right hon. gent. for establishing chartered banks similar to those in Scotland, but he would content himself with cautioning him that those very banks, if not kept within proper limits, would go on increasing the paper currency, and so add fresh difficulties to the present ones. The most serious omission on the part of the government, appeared to him to be, that while they were forcing these and other measures on the people against their consent, they did not even so much as approach the question of the corn trade. It was said, that there must be a standard price for corn; and all that would be well and good, so long as there was likewise a standard price for silk.

Mr Hume, although he approved of many of the general principles of the speakers who had preceded him, must at the same time protest against the praise which had been so lavishly bestowed upon the Bank of England. As soon would he join in commending the activity of an incendiary for assisting in extinguishing the conflagration which he had himself caused, as in praising the Bank, to which he attributed the existence of so much of the

public calamity. If that corporation had profited by their experience in 1797, they would not, as they had done, have allowed the foreign exchanges to have run for seven months against this country. As to the proposed chartered banking companies, he thought that they were not more necessary in the country than in London, where they were wanted as a check on the Bank of England. The great affliction of the country arose from the enormous and unnecessary expense of the government establishments. The whole amount of the military peace establishment of 1793 had not exceeded L.4,500,000, and it now amounted to between L.9,000,000 and L.10,000,000. In 1793, 18,000,000*l.* was the whole amount drawn from the people, and L.2,000,000 in poor rates. In the year just past, the people paid L.55,000,000 in taxes, and L.6,000,000 or L.7,000,000 in poor rates. Instead of imitating such examples as had been set by the American government and that of Bavaria, we were going back to the parade, frippery, and expenditure of the time of Louis XIV. It was, he would contend, a farce to talk of bank suspensions and commercial failures as the cause of our distress, or to think of applying a remedy to those partial evils, while we left untouched the great evil of all—our enormous expenditure. He would undertake on some future occasion to prove, that in the last year of our struggle on the Continent, the year 1815, when the whole amount of the expenditure of this country was not less than seventy-two millions, it was not greater than that which we were this year called upon to pay, taking the difference of gold and paper at the two periods. It was said that our immense military establishments were rendered necessary by the extent of our colonies; but he denied that our colonies required such expensive establishments, if

they were managed as they ought to be. Ireland, he supposed, was looked upon as a colony which called for a large establishment. But why should that be necessary? Why not put Ireland in that condition in which she could support herself? The East India Company were prosecuting a war without success, at a most enormous expense, and that expense, though it might at first sight appear to be that of the Company, was in fact a matter in which every man in the country was interested. This disastrous state of affairs was the consequence of having an incompetent man at the head of the Indian government.

Mr T. Wilson said, that he was a friend to the general principle of free trade, but that he thought the silk-trade, under present circumstances, ought to be made an exception, or at least that the principle should not be extended to that branch, while the monopoly of the corn trade was allowed to exist at its present height.

Mr John Smith entirely concurred with the right hon. gent. in most of his observations on the injurious effects of the issue of small notes by private banks; but let him remind the right hon. gent. that the undefined manner in which he had alluded to the intention of allowing joint-stock company banks, with a greater number of partners, and with of course a very large capital, might have an injurious effect on many banks within sixty-five miles of the city, unless he explained immediately the time when this proposition was to be carried into effect.

Mr Cripps admitted that there might have been some evils from the banking system; but they were the result of individual bad management. As a general system, he would contend that great good had arisen from the establishment of country banks.

Mr Maberly thought that great praise was due to the Bank of Eng-

land for its energy and activity in endeavouring to diminish the effects of the late panic in the commercial world. He would admit that the Bank was wrong in advancing to such an extent on mortgages as it had done. But let it not be said that the country had been brought into its recent state by the country banks only. The conduct of his Majesty's ministers had contributed in no slight degree to produce the effects they had witnessed, by the extravagant issue of their promissory notes, or Exchequer bills, which they had allowed to go forth to the amount of thirty millions.

Mr Pearse said, that the advances which the Bank had made upon stock, and also those which it had made upon mortgages, had been made with a view of alleviating the embarrassments of the commercial and the agricultural interests, and not with any view of beating down the rate of interest. He had been connected with the Bank for the last 40 years—a period as eventful as any that had ever been known in the annals of the world, and he would now solemnly say, with all that experience before him, that he never saw the Directors influenced by unworthy motives.

Mr Canning.—The hon. gentleman, (Mr J. Smith) seemed to apprehend that his right hon. friend had a plan for erecting joint-stock banking companies throughout the country, which would swallow up all the existing establishments. Now the plan of his right hon. friend went no farther than to take off, with the consent of the Bank, a few years sooner that it would necessarily expire, a prohibition of which the effect, by the concurrent opinion of all who had yet spoken upon the subject, was to make weakness, instead of strength, an inherent quality in the system of country banking. He could see no reason why, when the power of widening the basis of country banks

was given, it should not operate to add a seventh, or an eighth, or even a tenth partner to the existing establishments, rather than to create new establishments all over the country, to rival and extinguish the old ones. As to the charge of his right hon. friend's pressing his measure unawares upon the country, he must say, that it was impossible to discuss this subject without adding to the praises which had been bestowed on the Bank of England for its conduct in the administration of its affairs, that nothing became it more than the grace with which it had consented to strip itself of this part of its privileges. Such a rare occurrence as the voluntary abandonment of a possession, which if it were not a grace or ornament, was still valuable as a source of profit, deserved the highest panegyric. An honourable gentleman (Mr Robertson) had made, among a variety of remarks, one which he could not allow to remain unnoticed. He thought that ministers were extremely culpable for not discouraging the wild spirit of speculation which had contributed so much to the present crisis. But he would ask, had there been no warning given to the country on the part of ministers? Had there been no opportunity, during the fever which existed last year in the public mind, in which government had declared that they would not advance a farthing to the aid of any difficulties which might ensue from excessive speculation? Unfortunately, that warning had been disregarded; the difficulties which had been anticipated had arisen; and it was a little too hard for the government to be taunted now for a want of caution on that very topic on which it had spoken so explicitly.—An honourable gentleman (Mr Hume,) who had addressed them on the third bench, had left untouched no topic which had been agitated either during the last war or

the present peace. The honourable member had told them that the Speech of last year was contrary to the truth, and that the Speech of this year was inconsistent with facts. What nice metaphysical distinction there might be between "contrary to the truth," and "inconsistent with facts," he for one could not see. Perhaps the honourable member, as Lord Rector of a learned Scotch university, was gifted with acuter perception, and could enlighten the house upon this distinction without a difference. The honourable member said that there had been no reduction of taxation since the war. This assertion he would venture to say was "contrary to the truth," as all the world, with the exception of the honourable gentleman, knew that there had been a reduction of taxes to the amount of L.27,000,000. The honourable member then proceeded to say, that although no reduction of taxation had taken place during the ten years since the war, the reductions during the last five years had been fewer than before; in other words, connecting his first statement with his second, the reductions had been fewer than none—an assertion which was "inconsistent with fact." He had been asked by a learned gentleman whether the treaty between this country and Brazil had been ratified? He agreed with the learned gentleman as to the character of the stipulation to which reference had been particularly made. Nothing could be more objectionable, or more impossible for his Majesty's government to adopt. There were likewise other stipulations in that treaty to which he should be equally unwilling to give his assent. The fact was, that the treaty had been negotiated without any instructions, and even contrary to the views which the English government entertained upon those subjects. He had only another observation to make before he concluded, which was, that

under the pressure now existing in the country, he did not think it advisable that the state of the corn laws should be brought under consideration during the present session.

Mr Calcraft contended that the misery under which the commercial world was now labouring had not been entirely occasioned by excessive speculation and overtrading.* The government and the Bank, by contriving to beat down the rate of interest, had done far more mischief than the country banks, against which they had heard so much that night. With respect to country banks, it was mere matter of opinion whether a man took their notes or not. If he took them and did not like them, he might carry them back and compel the issuers to pay him in specie. What objection was there to this part of the system? Of the whole number of country banks, not one-tenth had stopped; and of those which had thus been compelled to suspend payment many had paid, or would be enabled to pay, in full, all demands upon them. The system which the Bank of England had adopted, of lending money on mortgages, and on the security of stock, was the beginning of the distress. This indiscriminate lending was now all over, it was true; but still that was the beginning and the cause of the distress.

Mr P. Grenfell felt it due to the Bank of England to say, that when the evil which had been alluded to was at its height, the directors had come forward in the most liberal manner, and, to use the expression of the right hon. gentleman, threw themselves into the breach, to avert, as far as they could, the threatened danger. Yet he could not but say that they had in some measure occasioned that danger, by the facility they had offered to speculation, by the great issues of their paper.

Mr Baring said, that the Chancellor

of the Exchequer, in omitting to state at what time he intended to carry the measure he had proposed into effect, had prevented the house from judging of its expediency. The Bank had been the authors of that dangerous redundancy of money which had given rise to the wild speculations abounding in every part of the country. The country banks had added to this redundancy in a much more mischievous manner. The Bank of England exercised some discretion in the quantity of paper money which it put out; but the very business of a country bank was to put out all the paper it could, and this every gentleman acquainted with country banks well knew was their constant practice. It would ill become him to reflect with severity upon persons who had made adventurous speculations in commerce; but he must say, that neither in this nor in any other country, had enterprises so rash and ridiculous entered the minds of men, as many of those which had been produced in London during the last year. It seemed as if all Bedlam had broken loose on the Royal Exchange. It was impossible that anything could be more liberal or sensible than the conduct which the Bank of England displayed at this juncture; but the causes lay too deep to be removed by anything that the Bank could do. With respect to the remedy which was to be now applied, there must be great caution in the manner of its application. He had always considered the one-pound country bank notes as a great nuisance, and the cause of frequent distress, which they were now as likely as ever to produce. He thought that before the right hon. gentleman proceeded with the measure he contemplated, he must be furnished with the exact amount to which the issues of these L.1 notes had arrived; and he would suggest that a bill should be passed, calling upon bankers to make returns of the amount of all their notes

issued within the last three years. The reduction of these notes, necessary as it was, could not begin until the present state of excitement had passed over. The amount of those issues might be taken, more or less correctly, at 18 millions: these, it would be remembered, must be replaced by gold. He was of opinion, that it was for the real benefit of the country that the dignity of the Bank of England should at all events be kept up, investing it at the same time with only such power as might be thought safe, because, unless this was done, it would be impossible, in the event of a war, to go on; and, to make this assistance available, the means of the Bank must be considerably enlarged. He hoped that we should long continue to live in peace, but he was not the less convinced that it would be impossible to get through two campaigns in a time of war, unless the bank system should be built upon a much broader basis. Another alteration, which he believed must of necessity be adopted, was to make the circulating medium here, as in other countries, silver as well as gold. Without this, the Bank even might be put in danger. With regard to the proposed extinction of the present system of country banking, he could not but agree that it was desirable, although he was not prepared to say that the country would experience any great relief from the new establishments which had been proposed to supply their place. If they wanted to form banks in the great commercial towns, such as Manchester, Bristol, and York, which would be perfectly in possession of public confidence, it should be done either by the means of branch banks from the Bank of England, a plan which, however, from its interfering with the present provincial interests embarked in that business, might not prove very palatable to the country — or they should, by an act of incorporation, al-

low a number of gentlemen to embark certain portions of their capital, say L.10,000, in a joint banking company. That sum from ten men would be L.100,000, an amount, in his opinion, quite adequate to support the respectability of the ordinary run of such concerns. One word as to the silk trade: — The right honourable gentleman to-night had declared, that it was the firm determination of ministers to adhere to the principles which had regulated their conduct with regard to that trade. He was of opinion, when that measure was first proposed, and he had seen nothing since to alter it, that we never could compete with the French in that branch of manufacture. In alluding to that part of the Speech which related to foreign affairs, he could not avoid expressing his admiration of the way in which the business of that department had been conducted.

Mr Huskisson. — His right hon. friend had stated very clearly that methods would be adopted, which he trusted would have the effect of preventing a recurrence of those disasters which had recently convulsed the commercial world, or, at all events, of obviating, in a great measure, the consequences of any similar panic. He fully agreed with his honourable friend (Mr Baring) as to the necessity of caution in the prosecution of any plan which would interfere with long-established interests, or which might have the effect of shaking the credit of those by whom a great portion of the present provincial currency was supplied. His honourable friend had very properly said, that it would be extremely improvident to withdraw so large a portion of the circulating medium at the present moment, particularly when it had been tried and purified by the recent ordeal; he agreed with the honourable gentleman on that point, as on others. The honourable gentleman said something about eighteen millions; now he knew

that in the years 1821 and 1822, it did amount to more than seven or eight millions, and after recent circumstances, when all prudent bankers, even of the greatest respectability, had thought fit to limit their circulation, he took it that it did not amount to much more than two-thirds of that amount, but even with that amount it was his right hon. friend's intention to deal with caution and care; indeed he proposed to allow those notes to wear themselves out, guarding, however, against the possibility of any fresh issues. As to the period in which the change of the constitution of the banks was to take place, by permission of the Bank of England, he apprehended no difficulty from its happening in a very short time. It was proposed, in order to allow gentlemen to wind up their concerns, to receive, and pay their debts, or to make preparations for retiring altogether, to postpone the operation of the law for six months. He could not conclude without expressing, in common with others, his strong feeling upon the subject of the liberal conduct of the Bank of England.

Sir M. W. Ridley approved of the principle of letting the notes wear out, but thought that a bill ought to be passed immediately to prevent the bankers from taking out and keeping a large quantity of stamps on hand, and thereby prolonging the circulation.

Mr Hudson Gurney had always disliked the country bankers' circulation, and more particularly their one-pound notes. But how the proposed changes could be carried into effect, and sovereigns at 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* an ounce could be substituted for the present paper issues, was to him totally incomprehensible.

Mr Denman said, he could not, consistently with his duty to the country and his constituents, avoid protesting against the total omission of the subject of the corn laws in the Speech, or

refrain from expressing his surprise, that while ministers so stoutly upheld the principles of free trade on every question, they should determine to continue the restrictions upon that. The distress in the manufacturing district with which he was connected, was very great; greater, he believed, than ministers were aware of. A man in full employment, a skilful man, could not, in many trades, earn more than 6*s.*, 7*s.* or 8*s.* a-week, and this was all he had for the maintenance of himself and family. And this was the time, and under these circumstances, that the produce of his labour was to be exposed to the competition of other people; and yet the corn laws were not to be repealed. The people who were in this condition, were acquiring more and more correct knowledge; they were persons of good information, who could argue soundly, and whose statements of their sufferings were both eloquent and heart-rending. He, for one, was not willing to go back from the principles of free trade, which he had supported in that House; but the House ought to follow up these principles, and not make the most important of all commodities an exception to the rule.

Mr Alderman Wood rose to say a few words in behalf of a large number of his constituents, who were suffering under great distress—he meant the silk-weavers. He did not wish to see the old restrictions revived, but he wished to see the restrictions removed from the corn trade, and he knew that these people would not be afraid of any competition if the corn laws were repealed.

The motion for an Address was then agreed to, and some members appointed to prepare it.

The House met the following day. On the question for bringing up the report on the address,

Mr W. Whitmore said that he regretted that the question of the corn

laws was not to be brought forward by ministers in the present session. So satisfied was he, that, without a proper settlement of the corn question, all attempts to establish a scheme of free trade must be ineffectual—that as ministers had professed they did not mean to bring it forward, he certainly should feel it his duty to bring it on himself.

Sir Charles Forbes reminded the House that with regard to the affairs of India, the observations of his honourable friend (Mr Hume) on the preceding evening, were still unanswered. The state in which we were now placed in India was extremely critical, and he thought that there could be but one opinion upon the Burmese war—to wit, that it should be ended as speedily as possible.

Mr W. Wynn proceeded to defend both the principle and the conduct of the Burmese war. Was there any one who could deny, not merely that actual aggression had been committed by the Burmese, but that an evident disposition to aggression had for a long time been manifested? For the conduct of our troops, and the success of our arms in India, who was there that could impeach either? If an enemy constantly flying before us, did not bear some testimony to the strength and valour of our troops, he did not know what honourable gentlemen would desire.

Mr C. H. Hutchinson complained that the Speech contained no reference to the affairs of Ireland. He had hoped, as an Irish member, to have heard of some attempts to secure peace and concord for his country. But he discovered no pledge in the Speech that any specific exertions would be so applied. It was true, that some indications of a favourable change were perceivable. But how were the people of Ireland to be secured in the enjoyment of their present tranquillity unless they saw a ruling spirit in the cabinet ready at all times to exert itself for their relief?

We were at present on good terms with France. We had no jealousy of her growing greatness, though she was moving forward in a splendid career. She was increasing in resources, her trade was prosperous, and her revenues abundant. We might not remain on terms so pacific as at present, and her resources might be powerfully turned against us, as they had been by her former master, Napoleon. Should that period ever arrive, this country ought to be in a situation which would render all her power available. But that could not be with respect to Ireland, unless means were applied to include her in the general system of amity and co-operation, which was the distinguishing character of the counsels of government at present adopted.

Mr Lockhart did not feel so much apprehension as had been expressed by many honourable members, at the late agitations in the commercial affairs of the country, because he considered occasional paroxysms of that nature as concomitant with, and nearly inseparable from, the enlarged and growing trade and resources of this great nation. He could not agree in attributing any of the distress which had prevailed to the Bank of England, though he was not prepared to oppose the measures which were likely to be proposed for opening the banking business. He considered it, however, very questionable, whether the mere allowance by law to form banking establishments of more than the statutable number of partners, would be sufficient. As to improving the business of banking by enlarging the number in the firm, let it be observed, that though the existing law limited it to six persons, it was seldom found that a country banking establishment contained so many as the law allowed. He believed that the average would not exceed three to a firm in all the existing establishments. He approved of the resolution of ministers to

persevere in establishing the principles of free trade, and had no other objections to urge to the measures about to be proposed but those which he had now expressed.

Sir T. Lethbridge thought that the speech was highly satisfactory. The question of the corn laws was the most difficult, intricate, important question which could be agitated in that House. It was clearly improper to bring it forward at a time when the attention of Parliament was likely to be taken up with an important alteration in the currency. The question of the currency most naturally went first, and must be set at rest before they could undertake that of the corn laws.

Mr Hume was surprised at the course of argument pursued by the honourable baronet who had just sat down. The honourable baronet had contended that the corn laws should be considered as part of the currency question. By what process of reasoning that position could be made out, he was at a loss to guess. As well might he call the East India Company's monopoly of tea a part of the currency question. He had opportunities of knowing the sentiments of the manufacturers as well, perhaps, as the honourable baronet; and he could take it on him to say, that they were not afraid of an extension of the principles of free trade, provided no reserve was made, and that those principles were applied to corn as well as to all other things. He believed that ministers were well inclined to carry their principles of free trade to every article—to corn as well as all others; but that they feared the influence which might be opposed to them on the corn trade; and, from what had occurred in another place with respect to the Canada Corn Bill, there was no doubt that influence was considerable. He now came to the observations of the right hon. gentleman (Mr Wynn.) and contended that

they had not answered his questions. This indifference on so important a subject was the more to be lamented, as there was not a free press in India. That had been put down by the most arbitrary, and, as he would contend, illegal proceedings. With respect to the Burmese war, the right hon. gentleman had said, that he (Mr Hume) was bound to prove the assertion that it had been wantonly commenced. The present was, he knew, not the proper time for entering into a discussion on that point; but he would at the proper time be prepared to contend, that there was not, in all the papers which had been, or could be, produced on that subject, any one document which could show that the Burmese nation had shown a disposition to commence the war. But the inefficiency of the Governor-General was not denied even by the Court of Directors. It was publicly stated, that he did not possess the confidence of that body, and yet he was maintained at the head of the Indian government. He could not refrain from reading one extract from a letter which an honourable friend of his in that house had received from a highly respectable and intelligent military officer in Calcutta; and here let him observe, that the sentiments contained in this letter were the same as those of every letter which he had seen on this subject. The letter to which he alluded contained these words:—"There was never a more inefficient governor. He is imbecile in the extreme."

Mr Freemantle, in allusion to the reports said to have reached England, on the state of our affairs on the Burmese frontier, could assure the House that every one of the public letters which had recently been received, hold out the most confident hopes of a prosperous termination of hostilities. The honourable gentleman (Mr Hume) had said that the Court of Directors

had no confidence in the government of Lord Amherst. This statement, he must take leave to say, was altogether without foundation. As to the authority of letters from India, on which the honourable member seemed to place so much reliance, he would observe, that he also had seen many letters from that country, from persons equally intelligent and respectable as those to whom the honourable member had alluded, and they gave a very different account of the state of feeling in India from that which the honourable gentleman had described.

Sir C. Forbes.—With respect to the melancholy affair at Barrackpore, it should be stated, in justice to Lord Amherst, that he was not in any degree implicated in that occurrence.

Mr W. Wynn could not see on what ground it should ever have been asserted that Lord Amherst was implicated in the affair of Barrackpore.

Mr Hume defended the authenticity of the information contained in the letters to which he had referred, and observed that many of them came from parties as respectable as any from whom the right honourable gentleman received his accounts from India. As to the

affair at Barrackpore, the conduct of government was blameable, in neglecting to give any answer to the applications made to them on the part of the troops which had refused to march. He understood that a communication was made on their part full ten days before the melancholy affair in which the transaction ended, and that it was suffered to lie in the office without any answer being given to it. He understood that the then Adjutant-General was now in London, and the truth of the circumstance to which he alluded might be easily ascertained.

Mr Freemantle observed, that the honourable member was greatly misled, if he believed that no communication was made to the refractory troops for ten days before it was found necessary to resort to force. The very reverse was the fact; for, from the time when they first objected to march, up to the period when the fatal termination of the affair occurred, communications were, he might say, hourly made to them from government, and no pacific effort was left untried.

The address was then brought up, and agreed to without a division.

CHAPTER II.

Commercial Distress.—Paper Currency.—Bank Charter and Promissory Notes Bills.—Bank Advances for Relief of Commercial Distress.—Local Payment of Bank Notes.—Paper Currency of Scotland.—Usury Laws.

THE import of his Majesty's speech, and the debates consequent upon it in both Houses of Parliament, evinced the deep sense entertained by the three branches of the Legislature of the commercial distress which prevailed, and the importance attached by them to the state of the currency as the principal cause of it. In order to mitigate that distress, but chiefly to prevent its recurrence, no time was lost by ministers in introducing to Parliament two important measures, with a view to the rectification of the currency; the one, a Bill for prohibiting the circulation of bank promissory notes under the value of L.5, beyond the 5th of April 1829; and the other, a Bill abridging the extensive privileges of the Bank of England, so far as to allow the establishment of banking companies, with an unlimited number of partners, at a distance of sixty-five miles from the metropolis. The discussion of these measures, and that of others, which will be found stated in the title to this chapter, were, from the affinity of the subjects, in a manner

blended together; and were by far the most interesting and important, as well as lengthened, that occurred in the course of the session.

The introduction of the two measures we have particularly mentioned, was preceded by several motions for returns, and also debates, having relation to the merits of those measures.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, Feb. 9, The Marquis of Lansdown said, that in moving for certain returns relating to the late commercial embarrassments, he was desirous of offering a few observations for the purpose of expressing the opinion he entertained on the subject. The evil had been occasioned by the alteration in prices. Men who had purchased at a maximum were compelled to sell at a minimum price. He believed it was the opinion of ministers that no adequate remedy could be applied to the evil. But although he concurred in this opinion, he nevertheless thought that no time should be lost by Parliament in investigating its

cause; and, if no remedy could be found, in endeavouring to discover a preventative. There were two classes of evils arising from the state of the currency. The first was its excess, which produced the exportation of the precious metals, by affecting prices and the exchanges. Another class of evil was the insecurity with which it visited the lower orders of the community, by depriving them of the value of their labour and the profits of their industry. The latter was by far the most serious grievance of the two. When he recollected the prerogatives of the crown, none appeared to him more valuable than that of coining money, which, interposed as a shield between ignorance and fraud. In country towns, local paper was usually the only currency in which the poor were paid for their labour. If they refused to receive the paper in payment, they must go without the reward of their labour. The state of the currency, as connected with the issue of small notes, was, therefore, a subject which called for serious attention. He believed there was no person, but must now be of opinion that the excessive issue of small notes had had the effect of driving the precious metals out of the country, as well as of raising prices generally, during the last two years. This observation applied more particularly to the notes of country bankers. The effect produced by an excessive issue of small notes had been most correctly described in a pamphlet by Mr Tooke, who justly stated the operation of an over-issue to be this—the first effect was to create an artificial abundance of capital; the accumulation of capital caused a reduction in the rate of interest; by the reduction in the rate of interest facilities were afforded for speculation; speculation produced a rise in prices; the alteration in prices checked the progress of mercantile exports, and so caused the precious metals to be sent

out of the country. With respect to the consequences of suppressing the issue of small notes, he entertained no apprehension whatever. It was, he knew, the opinion of many, that a paper currency was a species of accommodation, of which the country in its present situation, and with its existing amount of taxation, stood in need. After the most attentive consideration, he could not bring his mind to believe, that it was at all advantageous to enable a person to do that without capital which should only be done with capital. It remained to be considered whether the average rate of prices might not be as great under a metallic currency. Suppose a commodity, which, under a paper currency, sold at one time for L.100, and at another for L.50, should, under a metallic currency, sell at two different periods for L.90 and L.60; the average was the same, and it was certainly more advantageous to the interests of the community that a steady scale of prices exist, than that a constant fluctuation should take place, occasioned by a system of paper issues. Some persons, he knew, held the opinion that this most opulent country could not procure such a share of the precious metals as would enable her to carry on her commercial transactions. He knew that such an opinion was contrary to fact. It was proved by experience, that when any occasion for it existed, a flow of gold into this country never failed to take place. On one occasion the Bank was able, in the course of two years, to increase a treasure of less than three millions of gold to fourteen millions. Whilst he entertained the opinion which he had expressed, of the propriety of checking the issue of the small notes of country banks, he was equally desirous to see the Bank of England deprived of the power of circulating notes of the same kind. The Bank deserved great credit for the promptitude with which they en-

dealtoured to arrest the effects of the late panic; but he would add, that the Bank, in the first instance, so far from having arrested the progress of the late evils, had increased them by the extent of its issues. He believed it would appear, that in 1825, but more particularly in 1824, whilst the country bank paper was being increased, considerable additions were made to the issues of paper and discounts of the Bank of England. This was a time when an efficacious check upon the paper circulation might have been administered by the Bank. During the progress of that inquiry, the result of which was known by the name of the bullion report, one of the highest persons connected with the Bank, when asked what he considered to be the criterion of an excess in the issue of paper currency, replied, "A state of trade in which money is hawked about everywhere, and in which many persons are induced to undertake uncertain and imprudent speculations." He would ask their Lordships whether, independently of the exportation of the precious metals, which was actually taking place in 1824, to South America, a more accurate description could be given of the state of trade and speculation in England at that period than was to be found in the words which he had just quoted? Money was hawked about everywhere, and the most imprudent speculations were going on. He was inclined to hope much from the abandonment of part of the Bank privileges. He ventured to suggest that it would be expedient to provide, that wherever country bank notes should be issued, there they should be made payable. There were many persons who approved of the artificial paper currency, because they considered that it enabled them to fulfil those obligations which otherwise they could not do. He was unwilling to admit the possibility of the country being incapable of fulfilling all its en-

gagements. If he could entertain such an opinion, he would say, in God's name declare the fact, and adopt a system of policy applicable to the situation in which we were placed. Proceed upon fixed principles, but abandon a system which caused perpetual revolutions. He concluded with moving for the following papers:—

"1. An account of the number of Bank of England notes in circulation on the 15th of Feb., the 15th of May, the 15th of Aug., and the 15th of Nov., in each year, from 1819 to 1825, distinguishing the notes for L.5 and under; and a like account of notes of the Banks of Scotland and Ireland.

"2. An account of all the notes issued by country bankers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, from 1819, up to the latest period at which the returns could be made, distinguishing the amount of the notes, and the period at which they were issued.

"3. An account of the number of bankrupts in England, Scotland, and Ireland, from 1819 to the latest period at which the return could be made, distinguishing those who were bankers.

"4. Copies of all charters granted to banking establishments during the same period."

The Earl of Liverpool did not rise for the purpose of opposing the motion, nor did he feel it necessary to trouble their Lordships with more than a few words on the present occasion; first, because it would be his duty at a very early period to submit to the consideration of the House certain measures, which would afford him an opportunity of stating his opinions with respect to the present posture of affairs; and, secondly, because there was hardly a sentence which the noble marquis had uttered, from beginning to end, with which he was not disposed to agree.

The Earl of Caernarvon approved of the plan of extending the number of partners in banking establishments, as

a measure calculated to give them increased confidence throughout the country; and agreed also in the propriety of each of the partners in such establishments being made liable in the whole amount of his property for the concerns of the bank. Accompanied with these measures, he would gladly see the country return to silver as the standard of the currency, such as silver was at the old mint price. As to the proposed measure of withdrawing the one and two-pound notes, that was, in his opinion, by no means calculated to remove present evils. Such a measure would operate injuriously to the farmer, and to the humble class of agriculturists and dealers in the country, who principally carried on their business by means of the one and two-pound notes. Besides, great injury would be done generally to the community, by withdrawing so large a sum as six or seven millions—the amount of these small notes—from the circulation of the country, and that at a time, when it was desirable to give it an extension. That the withdrawing the one and two-pound notes, and the substitution of a metallic currency, would not go to the root of the evil, appeared, not from his statement merely, but from the letter of the First Lord of the Treasury, and his colleague the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to the Bank Directors. It was there stated, that “though a recurrence to a gold circulation in the country, for the reasons already stated, might be productive of some good, it would by no means go to the root of the evil.” The letter proceeded thus:—“We have abundant proof of the truth of this position, in the events which took place in the spring of 1793, when a convulsion occurred in the money transactions and circulation of the country, more extensive than that which we have recently experienced. At that period nearly a hundred country banks

were obliged to stop payment, and Parliament was induced to grant an issue of Exchequer Bills to relieve the distress. Yet, in the year 1793, there were no one or two-pound notes in circulation in England, either by country banks or by the Bank of England.” In Scotland, an approved system of banking had been brought to the test of experience. This was admitted in the letter of the noble earl (Lord Liverpool).—He would wish to see banking establishments of equal solidity in this country; at all events, he hoped the House would come to no resolution without the fullest information. With a view of supplying that information, he moved, “That there be laid before the House an account of all the notes issued by the Bank of England and the country banks since 1790.” The motion of his noble friend (Lord Lansdown) went only so far back as 1819, but he was desirous of reverting to an earlier period, for the purpose of considering the issues of that period, and particularly of 1793, 1795, and 1797, and of comparing them with those of the present time when similar distresses prevailed.

These motions were then agreed to.

In the House of Commons, same day, Mr Hume moved for an account of the number of country banks issuing notes, which had become bankrupt in England since January 1816; stating the places at which the business had been carried on, the number of partners in each establishment, the amount of debts proved against each establishment, and the dividends paid. At the suggestion of Mr Pascoe Grenfell, the account called for was extended to Scotland.

Mr Maberly thought the motion altogether objectionable, as an interference with the affairs of individuals.

Mr John Smith said, he was disposed

to support the motion. He had that morning read the correspondence between the Treasury and the Bank of England; and had been much struck with a paragraph which stated that the country banks had for some time fostered, supported, and encouraged, a rash spirit of speculation. Now, in the name and on behalf of very many country bankers, he begged to say that they expected the Chancellor of the Exchequer would name the evidence and grounds upon which he had made that sweeping observation.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer saw no objection whatever to the motion of the hon. member (Mr Hume.) With regard to what had fallen from the hon. member (Mr J. Smith,) he could only say, that with reference to the language in which the country bankers were spoken of in the correspondence between the Government and Bank of England, certainly, it never had been the intention of ministers to convey the slightest imputation against individuals. Their argument went merely to the general system of country banking. Every man who possessed, and traded with considerable capital, was, more or less, an encourager of speculation; and to say so, was neither an impeachment of his honour nor of his integrity.

Mr Calcraft said, it was well for ministers to talk of country paper; the right honourable gentleman had as much accommodation paper in the market as heaven knew how many of the country banks put together; and nothing had more contributed to do mischief in the late panic than the immense amount of Exchequer Bills afloat.

Mr Hudson Gurney said, that the whole system of country banking was opposed to speculation, which the country bankers, of all mankind; were most interested to prevent. When the whole country was carried away with a rage of speculating, then, indeed, they had

no choice or discretion to use; they must facilitate the views of their customers. The Scotch system did not discourage speculation. He was convinced that the introduction of it into this country would lead to more bankruptcies.

Mr Robertson praised the Scotch system of banking, which had raised Scotland, from being one of the poorest countries in the world, to the highest pitch of prosperity.—He chiefly condemned the new, rash, and adventurous system of commercial policy which Ministers were avowedly pursuing. Let the House consider what it was for the country to send out L.24,000,000 of its wealth annually in exports, without any return, and then say whether or not they could do without the aid of country bank paper. By the country banks the nation had been enabled to sustain this draining upon its resources without absolute exhaustion.

FRIDAY, FEB. 10.—The order of the day for the House resolving itself into a committee of the whole House, to consider of an alteration in the Bank Charter and Promissory Notes acts, having been read,

Lord Folkeston said, that in his opinion the right hon. gentleman (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) had stolen rather an unfair march upon them. If the right hon. gentleman would begin now and detail his plan, and show clearly the nature of what he intended to propose in the committee, his objection would be obviated. But if he required the House to go first of all into the committee, then would the House be treated, in his opinion, most unfairly, because they were driven forward to an undertaking, the reasons or necessity for which were not yet explained or decided upon.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was not aware that he had stolen a

march on his Lordship, the House, or the public.

Mr Baring complained that the course taken was only suitable to subjects of a common and obvious kind. Were they about to consult on a subject of the most insignificant or frivolous nature, they could not proceed with greater levity; whereas this was a subject which should have been preceded by every possible means of intelligence.

Mr Calcraft.—The noble lord was right in his objection to the course taken; but it would not have the effect of precluding objections to the plan, even in its preliminaries.

The Speaker then left the chair.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer.—If he did not feel that he was acting in the discharge of a great public trust, he should be appalled at the magnitude and difficulty of the subject on which he had now to address the House. One source of reliance at least he found in himself—he came to this deliberation with a good conscience; and he hoped that he might venture to ask the House for their gravest attention. Before he stated at large the views of the government, he would say that ministers would have deserted their duty, would have betrayed their public trust, had they not deeply considered the causes which led to the general distress, and come forward with such propositions as they conceived most applicable. He must observe beforehand, that it would be self-delusion were they to flatter themselves into a belief that any measures to which they could resort would act as an infallible remedy as to the future. Whatever they might think it necessary to do, they must not hope to apply a lasting remedy to the fluctuations of trade, the rise and fall of prices, or the ebb and flow of public and private confidence. He was aware how this argument might be turned against him. It would be said, that if circum-

stances were so varying, any measure must be wholly useless. There certainly seemed an inconsistency; but he would attempt to meet it. Under whatever circumstances a currency existed, fluctuations of price must occur, from causes unconnected with the circulating medium. But if these fluctuations were incidental to a country whose circulation was exclusively metallic, they were still more likely to occur in countries like this, where the circulation was partly metallic, and in part composed of paper convertible into metallic money. Such a currency gave facilities both to the borrower and the lender; of which the inevitable tendency was a quicker rise of prices; and, upon any reverse, a more precipitate downfall. This tendency, then, in our own country, must expose us, whatever the Legislature might do, to the most active species of fluctuation. Its results, too, would be infinitely aggravated, though not caused by a circulation like ours; because, when the paper circulation was not confined to notes of the larger denomination, upon any increase of that commercial speculation which it inevitably encouraged, the tendency was to aggravate the insecurity of the bodies from whom the paper circulation issued. Gentlemen connected with such establishments had said, that they did not care a farthing for the power to issue one or two-pound notes; and one honourable gentleman (Mr H. Gurney) protested that he was anxious to get rid of them. If, then, they were neither a source of profit, nor an object of necessity, and if they had a direct tendency to increase the circulating medium beyond the point it would at any time be likely to reach without them, he thought they were still farther to be deprecated, as directly contravening the tenor of the act of 1819; an act which was passed with the unanimous approbation of all parties. That they counteracted the tendency of that act

was not to be disputed; and, if so, where was the innovation which some gentlemen had accused ministers of pressing upon the approbation of the House? He would say, that it was the honourable gentlemen opposed to them who were the theorists. But he was met by the assertion, that to touch the small notes would affect the paper credit of the country generally. Would any man say, that it would be prejudicial to the currency, that those who had the management of it should be called upon to give security for its stability?—and was or was not that security wanted in the case of the notes of small denomination? These were the very notes which generally fell into the hands of poor and hard-working persons, who might perhaps providently acquire out of the produce of their industry three or four of those one-pound notes. What became of the prospects of that useful and praiseworthy class, when this source of supply was cut off from them by the failure of a country bank? At present, the poor man must depend on the operation of general speculations, of which he knew and could know nothing; or upon the effect of an over-issue of paper, of which he was equally ignorant. And, then, when any panic arose, who was the first to rush forward to secure his property? The poor man. And thus was the panic commenced. Example, however, was contagious. It appeared, therefore, that the power of issuing these notes was one great source of the insecurity of country bankers. Men placed in such situations, and liable to such influences, could not be said to hold their credit upon permanent and secure foundations. Was not, then, the remedy to be found in getting rid of the dangerous part of this paper circulation, and in making the attempt, was he proposing anything new? Quite the contrary. The propriety of restricting the circulation of small notes was never questioned. Fifty years ago parliament

passed an act (in 1773) prohibiting the circulation of any notes under 20*l*. In 1777 this restriction, for the better accommodation of the increasing trade of the country, was removed, and permission granted to issue notes not under 5*l*.; and in 1787, that act, which had been passed for a temporary purpose, was made perpetual. In that state the law continued until 1797, when one and two pound notes were first brought into circulation. When the Bank Restriction Act of 1797 was passed, it was clear, that unless the prohibition were withdrawn from the circulation of the smaller notes, the country would be altogether deprived of the means of carrying on its business. It was, however, then intended, that the suspension of the law, which suppressed the small notes, should be always commensurate with the duration of the Bank Restriction Act; and in the year 1819, when the Bank Restriction Act was under discussion, the strongest opinions were pronounced, the united declarations of the parliament and of the whole country were proclaimed, that cash payments should, as soon as possible, be restored to the ancient basis. When his right honourable friend (Mr Peel) had brought in his bill, even then parliament had never dreamt of the possibility of allowing the circulation of these notes for a series of years after the Bank were allowed, or compelled, to pay their notes in cash. With respect to the subsequent act of 1822, which allowed the circulation of this class of notes, he now confessed, that he had always felt regret, and still did regret, the step taken on that occasion by parliament. It was, however, then understood between the government and the country bankers, that though they objected throughout in the strongest manner to the deposits, many of them were content to surrender the issue of the 1*l*. and 2*l*. notes. So far as the bankers were concerned, then, they

could not now turn round and affect to set a prominent value upon that which they had on former occasions treated so lightly. Those who argued that the circulation of small notes was essential to the country, were driven to this position—they were bound not to stop with opposing his proposition, but to call for an eternal continuance of the circulation of the small notes. Then who would be the parties calling for a change? Not, as he had said before, the government, but those who, contrary to a repeatedly established principle, demanded the perpetual duration of a small paper currency. He was astonished at the attempt to establish a connexion between rents and these notes: his own belief was, that so far from this species of circulation assisting in the maintenance of the country gentlemen's rent-roll, it would be impossible for rents to be paid at all, should it be long continued. It was possible that other opponents might say, "You ought not to press your plan, on account of the manner in which it must practically cramp the circulation, lower the price of produce, embarrass all the transactions of agriculture and commerce, and paralyze the industry of the people." Now he would reply, that these apprehensions were visionary. In 1819 it became necessary for the Bank of England to take measures to meet the operation of the law, for the payment of their notes in cash. The mode which they adopted was, to contract their issues as speedily as possible, to lower the price of gold. It appeared that after the Bank had made these arrangements, there had been coined at the Mint a sum of not less than 25,236,000*l.* In 1820, there were coined at the Mint 940,000 sovereigns; in 1821, 9,520,000; in 1822, 5,250,000. So that, in three years, the Bank succeeded, after righting the foreign exchanges, and reducing the price of gold, in having coined 15,000,000 sovereigns.

He did not mean to say that this process was conducted throughout without distress, but upon turning to the prices of commodities, they would find that, in 1822, affairs had greatly mended; and this, while the paper of the banks had greatly diminished, that of the Bank of England necessarily, for otherwise they could not have carried their contemplated measures into effect. In 1820 the bank paper circulation was 23,875,000*l.*; in 1821, 21,759,000*l.*; and in 1822, only 18,000,000*l.* Still it might be said, that however practicable it might be to convert this paper into specie, it was an operation of such magnitude as could not be carried into effect without an increased pressure upon existing interests. This, to a certain degree, he was ready to admit. Some interests must always suffer in these important changes; but they must consider that the present case was not like that of 1819, in which the basis of the metallic circulation had to be laid. There would certainly be less difficulty in enlarging a currency already half metallic, than was experienced in introducing the metals when nothing but paper was afloat. The gold coined at the Mint, up to the present time, amounted to 25,236,000*l.* There had been exported, since 1819, 7,269,000*l.* of gold. However, within the last half year, the foreign exchanges becoming favourable, a large proportion of the exported gold had returned—not in ingots, but in gold coin, to the amount of 1,000,000*l.* sterling; so that the total loss upon the export of gold, might be taken at 6,000,000*l.* Hence 19,000,000*l.* remained for the use of the country. But it was possible that some coin had gone abroad in the pockets of individuals, and in the payments of the trade of smuggling, a sum which, if estimated at 2,000,000*l.* would still leave no less than 17,000,000*l.* of gold available for the country at this moment. The exchanges were now so favourable as to make it profitable to import

the metals. Taking this general estimate, they had a pretty large basis to build on; and if they turned to the state of the paper currency, they would see, with tolerable accuracy, the nature of what they would be required to perform. He spoke not of the aggregate paper circulation, but merely of the smaller notes. The number of these notes which were stamped from 1820 to 1825 inclusive, was, in 1821, 1,683,824*l.*; 1822, 2,214,623*l.*; 1823, 1,888,959*l.*; 1824, 1,969,758*l.*; 1825, 2,501,849*l.*; and up to the 5th of January 1826, 3,172,477*l.* He believed that if they estimated the amount of the country bank paper by trebling the amount of one year, it would not be under-rated. The average of three years, taking 2,000,000*l.* annually as the principle of the calculation, would make 6,000,000*l.* of this kind of circulating medium. But although that amount was probably in circulation in 1825, there could be no doubt that the amount had been recently much reduced, particularly from last July, when, owing to the interposition of some difficulty by a Bristol banker, in the payment of a one-pound note in specie, a considerable sensation of uneasiness on one side was created, and of caution on the other. When great apprehensions became afterwards more general, the consequence was a re-action, before which some bankers failed, and the convulsion of public credit in its turn affected the confidence of the solid and solvent bankers. These latter bankers, therefore, immediately controlled their issues as well as they could. Supposing, then, that in 1825, 6,000,000*l.* was the total amount of these notes in circulation, the number now could not possibly be estimated at more than 4,000,000*l.* In this view, the utmost necessity which could result from his proposition, in the course of the next three years (the time to which he meant to restrict the circulation of the 1*l.* and 2*l.* notes),

would be to supply the vacuum with four millions of gold. He conceived that all the notions which prevailed of the difficulties that must, it was said, attend the filling up of this paper vacuum, would be found visionary and groundless in the end. He implored them to brave this imaginary danger; and if they must, as they ought, take sound principles for their rules of action, to take them in a time of peace, when sound principles were, if they were worth a farthing, proper to be acted upon. Other causes had been alluded to, besides the excess of paper currency, arising out of various measures adopted by the Bank of England, some on account of the Bank itself, and others with the concurrence and in furtherance of the objects of government. The average amount of Bank of England notes in circulation in 1823, was 19,137,000*l.* In 1824, the circulation was 20,616,000*l.*; which showed an increase of about a million and a half on the issue of 1823. But in 1825, it again fell to 19,751,000*l.* The increase which was apparent in 1824, was partly charged as turning the exchanges against this country. Now, it by no means followed that the Bank issue had that effect; because it would be found that there was an impossibility of assuming any direct relationship between the amount of Bank of England notes in circulation, and those of the country banks; it frequently happened that when the former were great, the latter bore no relative proportion, and *vice versâ*. But it was supposed, that, assuming this increase to have contributed to the difficulties, part of the blame was attributable to ministers, owing to the arrangements which had taken place between the Bank and the government. He thought that the argument would lose all its weight when it was recollected that the Bank had, at the same time, proceeded on the new principle of advancing money upon

mortgage, to the amount of more than a million. The arrangement alluded to between the Bank and the government could not, upon a fair comparison of all the circumstances, have raised the amount of bank issues more than 200,000*l.* or 300,000*l.*, comparing the years 1824 and 1825, and including the effect of the mortgage advance. So that the arrangement could not in itself have caused that extensive issue of paper. He would now proceed to detail the plans by which government proposed to effect the establishing a safer basis for the currency. There were two modes by which this alteration could be effected: the one by declaring at once that no small notes should be circulated after a given period; the other, by permitting those already in circulation to run their course, and allowing no new ones to be issued, at the same time assigning a period for their positive cessation. The most proper, the most effective, and at the same time not inconveniently expeditious mode, would be to adopt the latter plan—that no new small notes should be issued from the opening of the present session of Parliament, and that none of those already in circulation should be allowed to remain current after the end of three years from that time. He meant to conclude by moving a resolution to that effect. He had been asked, the other night, what measure he intended to propose with respect to Scotland; and he was asked a similar question as to Ireland. In Scotland, until 1765, there existed no prohibition as to notes under 5*l.*, but in that year an act passed prohibiting the issue of notes under 20 shillings. This continued in force till 1785, when it was unconditionally repealed. In Ireland, there was no legal restriction, although in some parts of the north gold was in common use; but in other parts of that country, the circulating medium was paper. In 1799, the Irish Parliament passed an act pro-

hibiting the issue of small notes, while they were allowed with us; but in 1804 an act was passed, assimilating the laws on the subject of paper issues in both countries. It should be observed, that the whole system of Banking in Scotland was quite different from that in England. In the first place, there was no restriction as to the number of partners. There were three chartered banking companies in that country, but none of them had any exclusive privilege: they consisted of numerous partners, each of whom was only liable to the amount of his shares, but they possessed no exclusive privilege. In Ireland, an alteration took place in the law respecting banks in 1822, so far as related to that part of the privileges of the Bank of Ireland, which prevented the establishment of other banks with more than six partners, and banks of that description were allowed to be established, but at distances not less than 50 miles from Dublin. Now, supposing that an issue of small notes was not to be allowed as a permanent system in England, he could not see why Scotland and Ireland should not be put on the same footing. At present, the circulation of Scotland was exclusively paper; in Ireland it was almost entirely so; and in neither had it a metallic currency for its basis; it would, therefore, be evident, that the plan now before the House could not be applied to either of those countries at the present period. It was not his intention on this occasion to submit any specific resolution on this part of the subject; he would, however, take an early occasion of calling the attention of the House to it, and stating his reasons in detail. He would now beg to call attention to the propriety of limiting the privileges of the Bank of England, so far as to allow the establishment of private banks with more than six partners. When the Bank of Ireland was requested, in 1822, to concede a part of its privileges, for the attainment of an object similar

to that now proposed, it did not seem to be considered by that body that the concession would be injurious. On the contrary, it was rather looked upon as a source of greater security to all parties. It was clear that the concession on the part of the Bank had been productive of considerable advantage; and he confessed he did not see why the same principle should not be extended to this country. In Scotland, the principle had been long in operation, and the effect there was, that bank failures were unknown. It might be said that this plan would not prevent speculation to any great extent, or be an effectual check to over-issues. He did not say it would, but he contended that the issues would be rendered more secure by a species of banking conformable to that of Scotland. He knew there was no magic in the number six. Six partners might be too many for some purposes, as they would be too few for others. All he contended for was, that there should be an opportunity, by an extension of partners in cases where it was required, to give that security, the benefits of which had been so much felt in Scotland. The extension of the privilege, as to the number of partners in private banks, had been productive of great benefit in Ireland. Since the passing of the act in 1822, the greater part of the banking business of that country had been carried on by banks of that description. In one bank, the number of partners was 60 to 70; in the Provincial Bank, the number was even larger; and it was admitted that the business was conducted in a prudent manner, which gave confidence to those who had trusted their deposits with them, and to those who had availed themselves of their notes. He would now observe, that although he would move a resolution, declaring the utility

of such establishments in England, it was not his intention to propose a bill on the subject to that House. It was the intention of government that a bill for that purpose should originate in the other House. He had been asked, whether, if the measure should be adopted by the House, ministers had fixed any time when it might be carried into execution. He would now say, that he did not see any inconvenience which would arise to existing interests from the immediate establishment of the proposed banks. It would, however, be obvious, that some considerable time must elapse, in the nature of things, before the plan could be put in practice. He, therefore, had no objection to fix the 5th of next July as the period before which it should not be competent to any of the new companies to issue their notes. Whatever might be the result of the present motion, he should feel satisfied that he had done his duty in proposing it. Should the House reject the measure, he should not envy any man who might have to fill the situation which he had then the honour to hold, the responsibility that must attach to him in endeavouring to struggle against difficulties which must daily increase on him from the present system, in proportion as some efficient remedy was delayed. As the only remedy which, in his view of the case, would meet the evil he had now explained to the House, he would now propose his first resolution: — “That all promissory notes, payable to the bearer on demand, issued by licensed bankers in England, or by the Bank of England, for any sum less than 5*l.*, bearing a date previous to the 5th day of Feb. 1826, or which may have been stamped previously to that day, shall and may continue to be issued, re-issued, and circulated, until the 5th day of April, 1829, and no longer.”*

* The two other resolutions were,

2. “That it is expedient to make provision by law for preventing the issuing, re-issuing,

The resolution having been read from the chair,

Mr Baring said, that the resolution before the committee did nothing at all. It went only to say, that all the small notes actually in circulation should continue to circulate till 1829, and no longer; but it made no provision for any new notes which might be issued in the interim. If there were any one thing on which the country might congratulate itself in the present period of difficulty, it was that of the absence of all party-feeling from discussions of public affairs. The country was too enlightened to allow its distresses to be made a handle for party purposes. At the same time it must be admitted, that, if any party were disposed to make a stand, as a party against ministers, they never had a better opportunity than the present. What man could read the paper which had lately appeared, addressed by the right hon. gentleman, and his noble colleague (Lord Liverpool) to the Bank of England, without being convinced, that if it were wished to oppose them as a party, there was a most important ground on which to found an opposition? That paper, he would venture to say, betrayed an ignorance of the real situation of the country, which could not be expected from any man who had paid common attention to the passing events of the last few months. Was it not astonishing that any set of men should send forth a paper in which they said, "now that the distress has subsided, it is fit that some remedy should be applied to

prevent a recurrence of the evil?" Why, did any man in the country, except the right hon. gentleman and his colleagues, believe that the distress had subsided? The speech of the right hon. gentleman, and the remedy which he had proposed to the House, did absolutely nothing. The proposed remedy was mere milk and water, and would tend rather to aggravate than relieve the distress. It was a very different thing to suggest what might be sufficient to allay a temporary disorder, from that of providing a permanent system, under which the country should hereafter be placed. The permanent state in which it might be desirable to place our banking system was very different from that which the exigency of the present crisis might demand. There were in all cases to be found men so wedded to theory, that, when a particular emergency arose, they immediately recurred to their book, and to the set of rules there laid down, without ever considering that it would be necessary to adapt the remedy to the actual situation of things, and not to what might be their future condition. Such men cared not what interest they rode over, provided they arrived at a given principle. A man must go round to his object according to the obstacles which were interposed, and not attempt to get at it as the crow flew. He remembered another instance of attachment to theory in that House. When the report of the bullion committee was discussed, a large party in the House were so convinced of the abstract expediency of re-

or circulation, in England, of promissory notes, or undertakings^a in writing, payable to the bearer on demand, by licensed bankers or banking companies, for any sum less than 5*l*., other than such as may have been issued, dated, or stamped, previously to the 5th day of Feb. 1826.

3. "That the provisions of any act or acts of parliament now in force relating to the charter for the Bank of England, whereby the number of partners of which any bank or banking companies may consist is limited to six, be altered and amended, so far as they may affect the establishment of any such banks or banking companies situated at a distance not less than sixty-five miles from London."

sorting to cash payments, that because the House had resolved that it would be desirable to resort to such payments, they moved, as an amendment, that it would be desirable to pay in gold in the succeeding January. What he wished to impress on the House, was, that, in endeavouring to accomplish the end in view, they must keep in mind the difficulties which opposed themselves; and the first step necessary to be taken was to ascertain the nature and causes of those difficulties. As to the latter, he agreed generally with the right hon. gentleman. If he were asked his opinion on the subject, he would say, that the Bank of England had, in some degree, contributed to the present difficulties. The course which the Bank had pursued, however laudable in intention, was, in his mind, most erroneous in principle. Gold was in great plenty on the continent at the end of the war, and might have been very easily obtained in this country, because at that time there was a demand for our manufactures, which he was sorry to say did not exist at the present day. Almost every country was now rising in opposition to us in some branch of manufacture. It was particularly the case with America. If asked why the House of Commons had not taken some step at the end of the war to restore the currency, he would answer, that the blame, if any, was attributable to ministers, for not having submitted such a proposition. No doubt, they would have then met with a strong opposition from the country banks; but had they taken a bold, decisive step, it was certain they would have succeeded. From the facilities he had mentioned of procuring gold, the Bank of England, in 1823 and 1824, had accumulated a large store of gold and silver in their coffers. They had increased their dividends from 8 to 10 per cent, (though they had since reduced them

to eight,) and had divided a large bonus. They thereupon made large issues of paper, and at the same time the country banks issued in an extent nearly in proportion. One consequence of this excess of circulating medium was, a fall in the rate of interest. Mortgages fell from 5 to 4 and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The Bank saw and felt what was going on. They suddenly contracted their issues; and the change was at once felt through the country. A few days before, no one knew what to do with his money, now no one knew where to get it. The London bankers found it necessary to follow the same course towards their country correspondents, and these again to their customers, and each individual to his debtor. The banks in town and country, by advancing money on mortgages and other inconvertible securities, had put it out of their reach; and now they all sought to supply its place by every means in their power. The consequence was obvious in the late panic. Such a state of panic and alarm had hardly ever before existed among us. They had objected to the small notes of the Bank of England on account of the numbers which their forgery had led to the gallows. They ought now to object to the small notes of the provincial banks, on account of the numbers whom they consigned to the poor-house, and to all the miseries of a living death. But at present they ought to recollect that the house was on fire, and that the persons who were trembling for their lives in the garrets, ought to be got out of it as soon as possible. He could not help giving it as his opinion, that of late the Bank had lost sight of, in a great degree, the true sense of the system on which its affairs ought to be conducted to entitle it to a charter of any kind whatever. It had choked up its resources too much, in consequence of its connexion with government. In

the first place, the Bank had to provide for what was termed "the dead weight," which he believed now required 8,000,000*l*. In addition to this the Bank held Exchequer-bills to the amount of 7,000,000*l*. Besides the Bank was bound to advance 7,000,000*l*. more for the government on what were technically called deficiencies.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer,—Not so much; five millions and a half.

Mr Baring:—He would take the sum to be that which the right hon. gentleman had stated. Besides these three items, the Bank had undertaken to pay off 2,000,000*l*. on 4 per cents, so that, altogether, it had 22½ millions locked up by the demands of government. Further than this, the Bank had lent 1½ million to the country gentlemen on the mortgage of their land. He had now shown, that of the capital of the Bank, 24 millions were rendered utterly inapplicable to its general purposes as a commercial establishment. It would appear, upon such a consideration, that at all periods of difficulties, the embarrassments of the Bank were mainly attributable to government. And yet, the government still persisted in its former objectionable measures. One of the first measures which government ought to adopt to make the Bank efficient to the public, was to set it at ease in this respect, and to give it elbow-room for its future operations. He had heard it suggested, that the issuing of a quantity of Exchequer-bills would be of great effect in mitigating the existing distress; but it was his opinion that such a measure would inflict unsparing ruin on the community. Sure he was, that the funding of those bills would aggravate the present evil, and spread alarm and confusion in every direction. The Bank, as it was managed at present, was the heart of the circulation of the country, and it was evident that if that circulation was not perfect, a derangement must ensue in

all its subordinate functions. But independently of the danger to which the Bank was necessarily exposed by the choking up of its resources, there was a political evil arising out of it, which it was the grossest folly on the part of government to tolerate at all. In a time of peace, the object of a wise government was to have its monied institutions, like the ships of war at Portsmouth, ready for a start on a moment's notice. The power of this country was well known to be in its treasury. The last contest in which it was engaged was decided entirely by its money. First of all, they ought to relieve the Bank from its present difficulties, and when that was done, they should make it understand that it ought always to be ready with four, five, six, or even eight millions, for the service of the government. If the Bank were conducted upon proper principles, if it would not drive such hard bargains, and would be content with a profit of five instead of eight per cent, he was convinced that the system would stand upon a better footing than it did now. He was well aware, that ever since the resumption of cash payments, doubts had existed in the minds of very respectable persons as to whether there was a capacity in the country to maintain those payments. For his own part, he had never participated, neither did he participate now, in those apprehensions. The first plan which he had heard mentioned, was to erect a second bank. Now, he must say that he knew of no plan on which a second bank could be erected without augmenting the present confusion. One bank would be jealous and fearful of the other, and would take every opportunity of acting against it. But if they strengthened the old establishment by widening its basis and extending its capital, he was of opinion that they would confer very substantial benefit upon the community. He had been in hopes that the right hon. gentleman was going to

usher in that evening some plan better than any which had hitherto been devised; but a speech of greater promise and of less performance he had never heard. The object of the right hon. gentleman's measure was, that the Bank had agreed to concede that part of its privileges by which banking establishments were prevented from consisting of more than six members. He must tell the right hon. gentleman in the outset, that he had made his own answer to his own scheme, though perhaps he did not think so, quite conclusive against it. For, though at present the members of a banking establishment might consist of as many as six persons, it appeared that only 26 out of 700 banks which now existed had availed themselves of that privilege. If the right hon. gentleman had allowed persons to combine together on condition of depositing their capital, and of limiting their responsibility to that capital, he would have found plenty of individuals ready to engage in such associations; and banks would then be formed all over the country on the very best principles. He saw no objections at present to such a system. He was sure that, by adopting it, solid establishments would be created all over the country. They might be created either on the principle of a *commandite* or a joint stock company. There was another point on which he wished to express his sentiments; he meant the propriety of making silver as well as gold a legal tender. He was not going to state any novelty upon this subject; silver was a legal tender in every country but our own, and, up to a very late period, it was even a legal tender here, when of a fixed fineness. The proportions having been ill-regulated here, it became the interest of the debtor to pay in gold rather than in silver, and thus a practical tender of gold was established among us. The question, when it was determined in that House at the time of the Bullion

Committee, was determined too much in accordance with the views of philosophers and theorists, who looked to a fanciful perfection in the standard of value, and lost sight of a consideration which they ought always to have had before them—not to establish a more imperfect, in their anxiety to establish a more perfect standard. If one point was better established than another, it was this, that the perfection of a standard consisted in its invariableness. Now, the Bank of England, if it had the power to pay in silver, would be able to get it out of every country in the world. Gold, on the continent, is a mere article of merchandise, whereas silver, being the current medium, is always to be procured. He had no doubt that if they could get at a knowledge of the operations of the Bank, it would appear that the Bank had sent silver to the continent to procure gold. The evil of a single standard was clearly perceptible. The Bank, obliged to pay in a metal which is not the currency of any other country, but a matter of merchandise, is liable to be speculated against in every direction, and nothing would be easier than for a person with very inferior capital to stop the Bank from getting even a single ounce of gold. Take the case of France, where gold and silver lived together in perfect harmony, and where there was seldom more than a variation of 10 centimes between them. They sometimes differed from 10½ to 10¼; but he was told that now for the first time since the establishment of the gold and silver currency, the difference had increased 1½ per cent in consequence of the demands of the Bank for gold; and that, in consequence of our wish to have this beautiful and philosophical standard, the price of it had risen in every country of Europe. Against this variation of ten centimes, he would place the variation of 20 or 30 per cent, which existed in the value of commodities in

England, and even in that of the pound sterling. This variableness in the standard cramped the measures of the Bank, and narrowed its power of assisting its customers. His plan was to leave the smaller silver coins in circulation, as the half-crowns, the shillings, and sixpences; to call in the crown-pieces, which at present were little used; to recoin them, and to make the crown-piece a legal tender to any amount. The proportion of gold to silver was in England 15 to 1, and in France 15½ to 1; but he trusted that, by making both legal tenders, they would approach nearer together, and that the disproportion between them would ere long cease to be so great as it was at present. Gentlemen might perhaps suppose that they would be encumbered by the difficulty of carrying about such a medium; but they would find that they would be able to get 100*l.* of gold for 100*l.* of silver for an agio of two shillings, as in France it was now done for an agio of two francs. He had still one observation more to make. Gold went out of the country much faster than silver. The old principle was, that the moment the exchange turned ¼ or 1 per cent against England, the gold was exported; but now the case was entirely altered. Formerly it could not be exported without considerable fraud, and some risk. Now, it could be put openly into a bag, and be carried away. It was exported, too, in infinitely larger sums than it was heretofore. A further advantage of establishing a double standard would be, that if the gold went out of the country, the Bank could pay in silver; and if the silver went out, it could pay in gold. With respect to the amount of the country issues which the right hon. gentleman now proposed to call in, it should be observed that a considerable diminution had already taken place. On a recent occasion, the right hon. gentleman had stated them to be 6,000,000*l.*, now he called them 4000,000*l.*, and not long

since they were said to be 8,000,000*l.* He would suggest to the right hon. gentleman, that it would be prudent to pause before the plan which he had proposed should be adopted, for this reason, that although the issue of the small notes had already been partly restrained, it had been done at the price of increasing the existing distress. He knew very well that when the proposed scheme should be effected, we should come back to sound principles; but his anxiety was to know what was to be done in the meantime. He wished that the right hon. gentleman could be prevailed upon to postpone his measure for another year, or to leave it alone altogether. If things should be let alone, the distress would certainly not be aggravated, and the people would probably find out that three-fourths of it had been the result of mere panic and alarm, which was in many respects unfounded. The measures which he wished to see adopted, and which were recommended by their obvious expediency and safety, were, that banks should be established either upon the principle of joint-stock companies, or in such other way as might induce persons of capital to go into them, that a double standard should be resorted to, and that ministers should relieve the Bank of England from that incumbrance which its present connexion with the government occasioned.

Lord Folkestone thought that the present crisis was much more serious, and the consequences with which it was fraught would be much more injurious, than ministers seemed to imagine. He agreed with his honourable friend (Mr Baring) that the right honourable gentleman, in the plan which he had suggested, was going much too far. The only remedy which he proposed was, in fact, to repeal the measure of 1822. It would be remembered, that the bill of 1822 was proposed after some years of in-

tense pressure, and when a wide-spread calamity had prevailed over the whole of the country. The distress, he must remind the House, had been most severely felt in 1819, 1820, and 1821, and it had then pressed most heavily upon the manufacturing interests; but it was not until 1822 and 1823 that the agriculturists suffered, and then it was stated that the bill was brought in to assist the circulating medium; and what was the consequence? why, prices immediately rose, and had continued at a high rate from that period to the present. In 1819 that measure, which was commonly called Mr Peel's bill, passed, which enacted that after 1823 no small notes should be issued; the consequence of which was, that the Bank began collecting gold, of which they got a large quantity in a short time at a considerable expense. By this operation an immense difference was effected in the currency, which began to be felt in 1820 and 1821; and long before the time limited by the act, all the small notes of the Bank of England had been withdrawn from circulation. The country banks were upon this compelled to follow the example as far as they could, and to narrow their issues. To remedy the distress consequent upon this measure, the bill of 1823 was passed; prices immediately rose, and the distress was thus relieved. It was now proposed to repeal that bill; but he would ask, whether the present circumstances of the country afforded the least reason for believing that to do so would not bring back again the distress? It was impossible to doubt that this must be the result of such a measure. In his opinion, nothing could be more injurious to the country than this eternal fluctuation of prices, which had now been going on for several years. With

respect to the proposed establishment of joint-stock banks, he did not think that they would do much towards relieving the present or preventing future distresses. It was generally supposed, and, for his own part, he believed, that the existing evils arose in a great measure from the immense quantity of paper in circulation; and, as these banks must in any case have a greater power of forcing paper into circulation than those now in operation, he did not see the great benefit which was to be produced by them; but, on the contrary, he saw that a power would be granted which might prove injurious to the country. A great deal had been said respecting Scotland, where such banks existed; but it did not appear from what he had learned on the subject, and from that book which had been so much read and commended of late,* that the distress in Scotland was less than that which prevailed in England.

Major Maberly said, that he disagreed with almost everything that had fallen from the honourable member (Mr Baring,) except the praise which he had bestowed on the liberal conduct of the Bank during the late emergencies. Among persons who were best informed on the subject, two opinions prevailed as to the cause of the present distress: the first was, that it had been occasioned by the connexion between the Bank and the government; and the second attributed it to the overtrading, and to that mania for speculation which had existed in so extraordinary a degree. He declared himself to be of this latter opinion.* It had been stated that the low rate of interest had been the chief cause of the speculations, and this low rate of interest was attributed to the over-issues of the Bank; but these over-issues, as

they were called, had existed for a year and a half before they affected the rate of exchange. If they looked to the speculations at present ascribed to the over-issue, they would be found to have been on foot long before any over-issue was indicated by the rate of exchange, towards the close of 1823. Persons who had derived a small income from the interest of their money, were unwilling to lose the comforts they had previously enjoyed, and readily embarked in speculation as the means of keeping it at the same rate. Mr Tooke had pointed out other causes to produce the recent convulsion. That writer stated, that about the end of 1824, the stock of manufactures of almost every description on hand was shorter than usual. The consequence was, that immense speculations took place in various articles. Cotton and silk were imported in immense quantities. To such an extent was the speculation in cotton carried, that it increased in price from 150 to 200 per cent. In 1825, it was found that there was an accumulation of stock on hand. Prices were daily falling, and sales were effected with greater and greater difficulty. Then came the senseless and unreasoning panic with respect to the bankers. From the nature of their business, bankers were totally unable to pay at one moment all the money which was deposited with them; if they paid all the money on their books, they could not carry on their business. The panic hourly increased, and what the consequences might have been if the Bank of England had not come forward to check the evil, no one could tell. This was a short history of the recent distress. He attributed it entirely to over-trading. It was an evil to which no legislative remedy could be applied. The two measures brought forward by government had very little reference to the causes of the distress. The first measure would prove ineffi-

cient. The evil was not that the present banking establishments wanted solidity: This was proved by the fact, that the number of bankers who failed was very small. With respect to the second proposition of the right honourable gentleman—namely, that to enable the Bank of England to establish branch banks,—it met with his hearty concurrence, and he sincerely hoped that it would be carried into effect. Those establishments would naturally be more cautious with respect to the amount of their issues than country banks. One of the measures which ministers had in contemplation was, the putting a stop to the issue of 1*l.* and 2*l.* notes. It was, he understood, part of the plan of the government to invest commissioners with the power of regulating the issue of small notes. To that he most decidedly objected. He did not anticipate from a metallic currency those advantages which some persons seemed to think would be derived from it. The office of money might be performed by paper as well as by gold; and the substitution of paper in the place of gold was, in fact, equivalent to so much gold gained; whilst the substitution of gold for paper diminished the capital of the country, and reduced the means of employment. It was, in fact, the imposition of a tax to the amount of the capital which it displaced. He denied that there was greater security to be found in a metallic than in a paper currency. He did not require a stronger proof of the insufficiency of a bullion currency to afford security than the statements contained in the right honourable gentleman's own paper, from which it appeared, that in 1793 the greatest convulsions took place under a bullion currency, whilst Scotland, which had possessed a paper currency for the last thirty-five years, had never experienced any convulsions whatever. He sincerely believed that the whole of the

recent distresses had been caused by over-trading. Such periods of speculation had occurred from time to time. The period of the South Sea scheme was distinguished by speculations far more extravagant than any which the country had recently been witness to. Those speculations, as described by an eye-witness, appeared so enormous and so wild, that, compared with the recent schemes, they were as a drop of water to the ocean.

Mr Huskisson said, that the honourable member (Major Maberly) had truly observed, that the Bank, by their prompt and efficacious assistance, had put an end to the panic, and averted the ruin which threatened all the banking establishments in London, and through them the banking establishments and monied men all over the country. He would take upon himself to say, that the Bank, throughout their prompt, efficacious, and public-spirited conduct, had the countenance, advice, and particular recommendation* of the first Lord of the Treasury, and his right honourable friend (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) to assist them. His honourable friend (Mr Baring) had inferred from what appeared in the correspondence, that government was ignorant of what passed in Scotland. Could it be supposed that his noble colleague and his right honourable friend were so ignorant of the state of the country, as not to know that the greatest commercial distress at present existed in Scotland, and that the Scotch bankers, by their mode of affording discounts, were aggravating that distress? It was, however, quite consistent with that fact, that the system of Scotch banking afforded greater securities than the English system, and therefore it was desirable to introduce the former here. He could assure the noble lord (Folkestone) that there was no part of his speech in which he so cordially concurred, as that in which he stated that a system of currency

which produced great and violent fluctuations in the price of commodities, was most to be deplored on account of the manner in which it operated to aggravate the distresses of the labouring classes. That opinion he had uniformly maintained. His honourable friend (Mr Baring) had stated the advances made by the Bank on account of the half-pay annuity at 8,000,000*l.*, forgetting that considerable sums were paid by government to the Bank twice a-year on account of that transaction, which, if deducted, would reduce the amount advanced by the Bank to 5,400,000*l.* His honourable friend stated, that the Bank were in the habit of issuing 7,000,000*l.* upon Exchequer-bills at one time, and 9,000,000*l.* at another, and that those advances swallowed up all their capital. In the first place, did any one suppose that the 7,000,000*l.* which constituted the charge on the consolidated fund, was all demanded in one day? The money was drawn out in separate portions at different periods. At the same time the accruing receipts of the new quarter were daily paid into the Bank. Instead of the Bank advancing 24,000,000*l.* to government, they advanced only the sum he had mentioned on account of the half-pay, and about 6,000,000*l.* on Exchequer bills; for with respect to the deficiency bills, he considered it no advance at all. He was not a little surprised at another part of his honourable friend's speech. He stated that at an early period after the conclusion of the war, the market on the continent afforded a favourable opportunity for obtaining a supply of gold, which would have enabled government to have got rid of the 1*l.* and 2*l.* notes. The continent had not then means of paying for our manufactures. There was at the present moment a much greater export of manufactures than at the period alluded to; and his honourable friend could not so far forget those principles of trade which he had so of-

ten professed as not to know that, as our exports were greater than our imports, so the payments to be made in bullion increased; and that this was the only way of procuring the precious metals. The real cause of the distress of the country—as had been stated by his honourable friend—was over-trading: that was the immediate cause. Such was the mania for speculation, at the latter part of 1825, that even in the article of nutmegs, the price rose, in the space of one month, from 2s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. per lb. And this state of things was not included in the audacious, puffing, bedlamite schemes, with which the market had been inundated; but had its rise amongst those who were considered the sober, steady merchants and traders of the metropolis. And when, he would ask, did all this take place? At a period when the exchanges were against this country. Now, he would repeat,—that the natural effect of an unfavourable state of the exchanges was to encourage an increase of exports, while it checked imports in the country. Well, then, if, at such a period, money was so plentiful as to be hawked about, and offered at a depreciated rate of interest, would they not naturally conclude that there was something wrong in our currency? And if so, he would ask to what such a state of things, if unchecked, must come at last? As to the state of the currency, there had been, unfortunately, much difference of opinion upon it. But the Bank felt called upon to provide for its own safety, by narrowing its issues; and what was the result? The spirit of speculation was checked, and as a necessary result, those country banks which had been most rash and immoderate in aiding speculations by advances, were ruined. But the evil did not stop here; for the ruin of a few bad and unstable banks, involved in difficulties many establishments of a similar nature, which were otherwise placed

upon the most stable footing. He would ask whether it was safe or convenient that the country banks should remain upon such a footing? His opinion, after watching carefully the course of events, was—that cash payments and the circulation of 1*l*. and 2*l*. notes could not permanently co-exist. He would put his proposition more simply. If there were in any country a paper currency of the same denomination as coin, the paper and the coin could not circulate together: the paper would drive out the coin. The majority of bankers relied, more or less, upon the Bank of England. Was it the duty of the Bank of England to provide gold upon all occasions, not for ordinary demands, but for any panic which might occur? Were they to provide gold for the adjustment of the foreign exchanges? It was impossible that the Bank could do this. Why was the Bank alone to be called on to ensure its solvency? And why should not country bankers be required to do the same?—One of the great evils which they were called upon to correct was, the excessive issue of paper; this had been productive of the greatest distress; it had caused the ruin of thousands of innocent individuals. He was surprised to hear his honourable friend (Mr Baring) assert, that if this measure were carried, it would involve the whole of the agricultural interests in distress equal to that which had prevailed before 1822. Need he tell his honourable friend, that there was a necessary connexion between those who consume and those who supply agricultural produce? What was it that created the revival of the agricultural interests in 1822? Principally the revival of the manufacturing interests, and the employment of thousands who had for a considerable time before been deprived of an opportunity of supporting themselves by their labour. If they wished to prove the value of a steady and unchangeable

currency, they had it in the history of France. That country had been twice invaded by a foreign army; her capital had been twice taken possession of, and she was obliged to pay large sums to foreign countries; but she had a steady metallic currency, and however such visitations might have affected the great, the body of the population remained unoppressed. He was far from being hostile to country banks; he thought, on the contrary, that they would be of great service to the country if placed under proper regulations. But they must be prevented from issuing paper as low as the highest denomination of the metallic currency of the country. They must not be permitted to issue these 1*l.* notes. Such issues amounted in reality to assuming the powers of the prerogative. He now came to the point, whether this was a proper time for providing for the gradual withdrawing of those notes. Those notes were at present already greatly curtailed by the failure of one hundred country banks, and other causes. The country banks had, at this time, great stores of gold in their hands, drawn from the Bank of England, and Bank of England notes; and now, therefore, was the most convenient time for providing, by law, for the gradual extinction of the small-note circulation. If they postponed the commencement of this measure, could they be assured that they would ever begin at all? At present, too, whilst these country banks had only a small number of partners, they were naturally led by views of private interest, to neglect the just principles of banking. But when a bank consisted of, suppose two hundred partners, their business would be differently managed. They would be tied down by rules which would not admit of these ruinous speculations, and their affairs would be conducted on the genuine principles of banking. His honourable friend (Mr Baring) had re-

commended the giving to England a metallic currency on a more extensive basis than could be obtained by the recall of the 1*l.* and 2*l.* notes. For himself, he was bound to confess that he entirely differed from his late friend, Mr Ricardo, as to the basis upon which the currency of the country ought to rest; and he believed that if that gentleman had been the sole director of the Bank of England, the country would, before this moment, have witnessed the stoppage of that establishment. While upon the subject, he might observe, that he should be glad to pursue, and would pursue, some further inquiry, into the best mode of improving the suggestion thrown out by the honourable member, (Mr Baring,) and introducing, in some shape or other, silver as a legal tender. There was very little more which he had to address to the House; but upon one point a few words should be said in his own justification. An honourable member had said, in rather sweeping terms, that for much of the late wild speculation which had been carrying on throughout the country, ministers were chiefly to blame. Now, the House would remember when it was that the great bulk of these speculations had commenced: it was in the spring of last year. In February last—in the very commencement of those speculations—he had used this particular expression in speaking of them—"That the lottery was a safe adventure compared with the mass of those in which persons were engaging." Again, in the month of March, speaking of the speculations, he had distinctly declared his opinion that those who had engaged in them would find themselves disappointed. Unfortunately, those to whom this advice had been addressed had disregarded all warning. They had rushed on, in contempt of all caution, to their own undoing.

Mr Gordon begged to remind the House, that the right honourable gen-

tleman (Mr Huskisson,) who now so fiercely attacked the 1*l*. and 2*l*. notes, had been, in 1822, a member of that very cabinet, which, when the members of that House were declaring that they could not pay their rent, their labourers, and their taxes, had proposed, as a remedy for the evil, that very measure which they now desired to abrogate.

Mr Canning then moved that the question should be adjourned, which was agreed to; and the House adjourned at half past twelve o'clock.

On Monday, February 13th, the order of the day for the committee on the Bank Charter and Promissory Notes Acts, having been moved, the question was put, that the Speaker do leave the chair, whereupon

Sir John Wrottesley rose to oppose the motion. He said, that all those who thought, as he did from the outset, that the project of ministers was impolitic, ought to take their stand against it at the earliest opportunity. Had the subject been left alone, the panic would have subsided, the energies of industry would have resumed their action, and the good sense of the people would have gradually and surely brought matters round to their proper footing. That the question would have been incidentally mentioned in the House he had no doubt, but then it should not have been mentioned by ministers—there was the mischief. Was it not cruel to turn the public eye, with the finger of official authority, towards country bankers, as the instigators of speculations which they had done all they could to prevent? What was the fact with respect to these speculations? They were begun and carried on where no local notes were in circulation. It was in Manchester and Liverpool that the spirit of speculation first raged in the article of cotton, where there were no country banks at all. The next place was the Stock Exchange of Lon-

don. Alluding to the Bubble Act, and the different interpretations which had been put upon it, the honourable member contended, that under these circumstances it was the duty of government to declare what the law really was. The effect of such a declaration would have been, if not to crush, at least to restrain, these wild speculations. The next subject to which he wished to call attention was, the proposed repeal of that part of the Bank Charter Act, which authorized, until 1833, the issuing of small notes. When would the Bank Charter expire? In 1833. When would the small country notes cease to be legally issuable? In 1833 also. The privileges of the Bank of England, and the country banks being equally sanctioned by the faith of Parliament, how happened it that that faith was to be kept with the Bank, and not with the country bankers? He supposed it would be contended, that the country banks had forfeited their claim for equal justice; that they abused their power of circulating small notes, by the excess to which they had carried it. Well, then, let the same test be applied to the Bank of England. Could the Chancellor of the Exchequer deny, that what with the government, and what with the Bank, the paper-circulation of the country became at one time so depreciated, that the relative value of the guinea in gold and in paper, was as 27*s*. or 28*s*. to 21*s*.? But he denied the assertion, that the country banks had over-issued. The country notes in circulation in 1825 were double the amount of those of 1822. Be it so; and he could tell the reason why. Almost all the small notes were employed in carrying on the provision trade. Look to facts, and it would be found that the price of corn in 1825 greatly exceeded its price in 1822—in some places it was double; and the value of cattle more than doubled in the same period. This rise in the va-

lue of commodities necessarily increased the amount of the notes which were to be paid for them. The great difficulties which must attend the contemplated change were, that the one-pound notes (except in Lancashire) formed the great medium of payment by which the ordinary transactions of life were carried on. He was satisfied that, were they withdrawn, a very different quantity of business would be transacted; and if the latter could not be transacted on the same scale, then what became of the labouring poor, who must be thrown out of employment? He had certainly heard a good deal of the improvement which was to arise in the banking system from this change. He did not believe a word of it. They might probably have branch banks from the Bank of England in Lancashire—they might have them also in some of the manufacturing districts of Yorkshire; but in any of the other manufacturing counties such establishments were not likely to appear.

Mr Alderman Thompson was inclined to think that the excess of bank paper had increased speculations, from the superabundance of money which they threw into the market. The country banks, too, readily accommodated the manufacturer, who gave a high price in his turn; and thus, at the close of 1825, the paper circulation had been carried to a forced and unnatural height. In this state a re-action occurred. Seventy bankers either failed at once, or their paper was thrown into a state of abeyance: calculating their issues at 50,000*l.* each, which was, he believed, much under the mark, 3,500,000*l.* of the circulating medium was withdrawn in the short space of three months. Assuming 20,000,000*l.* to be (as had been said) the whole circulation of the country, and add to the 3,500,000*l.* already withdrawn, the additional amount of the paper money which must have disappeared in consequence of the recent

shock, there would be a reduction of nearly 50 per cent within six months in the currency of the country. At all events, he thought himself safe in assuming that there were now 6,000,000*l.* of paper-currency less than the public possessed six months ago. How was the vacuum thus created proposed to be supplied by the Chancellor of the Exchequer? He said by gold: where was this gold to be obtained? There was no way of obtaining the precious metals but by the growth of the exports: what exports had they now to provide them? Their own manufactures were not in demand on the continent, neither were the foreign commodities which they possessed. Though prices had fallen 20 per cent, business was still in a state of great stagnation. How, then, was this measure to operate? They all knew, that by far the greater portion of the trade of the country was carried on through the medium of small notes, and the largest circulation of them was in the most active manufacturing districts. Entertaining these opinions, he must oppose the present proposition, believing it to be one which, instead of having a beneficial tendency, was more likely to create a convulsion from one end of the country to the other. As to the idea of throwing open the Bank charter, in expectation of the establishment of joint stock companies, it was a mere delusion.

Mr Leycester differed from the two honourable members who had preceded him, upon, what he thought a mischievous anomaly, the prerogative of every man who thought proper to call himself a banker, and to issue paper-money. He thought that a mob at the mint was as bad as a mob at the helm of the state. As a friend to a sound currency, he rejoiced in the proposed measures; and the only thing he had to regret on the subject was, that they did not go far enough. Why should not the right honourable gentleman ex-

tend the principle farther, and sweep away the 5*l*. notes also? With respect to the enlargement of country banks, he did not think that it was likely to take place. Large numbers would not necessarily produce large capital. Six men might be as rich as twenty, and the very increase of number would increase the chance of insolvency; for there was a greater chance of having a black sheep found among twenty than among six. Against this he knew that the banks in Scotland would be quoted; but how was it known that the success of those banks might not be imputed to local causes, and those very different from a mere extension of partnerships? Might not the cause of it be found in the national character of the Scotch for prudence and sagacity in their commercial transactions? He had no reliance upon this part of the plan.

Mr T. Wilson said, that on the situation of the country, and the remedy most effectual for restoring a sound state of currency, he entirely concurred in the views of the honourable member for Taunton (Mr Baring.) One part of his speech, which he thought particularly deserving of attention, was that relating to a mixed currency.

Mr John Smith admitted that this question was one of considerable difficulties; but, after having heard the speeches of some gentlemen on that and the former night, he must say that the difficulties which he had felt were removed, and he was now prepared to vote with government in support of the proposition before the House. The honourable gentleman, while he admitted that the small-note circulation had a most vivifying effect on trade and commerce, conceived that it had been most injurious to the working classes, who often had not the option of refusing small notes in payment; and proceeded to reprobate the correspondence between the government and the National

Bank as unjustly condemnatory of the country bankers.

Mr C. Grant supported the measure at considerable length. It had been said, he observed, that there was a tendency in every species of paper currency to displace gold, unless its progress should be arrested by some check; and the great problem was to provide some check. One honourable member seemed to think that the convertibility of paper into gold on demand, would afford it. In that opinion the honourable member concurred with many eminent men, including the members of the bullion committee. This, perhaps, was the general opinion at that time, but it must be admitted that the science of political economy was still almost in its infancy, and further investigations were daily throwing some new light on the subject; and we were as yet in a state of experiment with respect to it, as compared with what we might be in the course of some future time.

Sir John Newport said, that the present system of banking was equally dangerous to bankers and their customers. It had been contended, that in the present state of our affairs, the commerce of the country could not be carried on without having recourse to this species of circulating medium; but even if it were, it would be much better that an extra portion of commerce should be sacrificed, than that the present pernicious system of banking should be suffered to continue. The present was as favourable an opportunity as could possibly occur for carrying this important and most desirable measure into execution.

Mr Alderman Heygate said, that the present question was, whether this was the proper time for interfering with the most delicate of all things—the currency of the country. Nothing lately had caused more astonishment in his mind, than the first sentence in

the letter recently sent by the First Lord of the Treasury to the Bank, in which he found it boldly stated that the panic was over. Could any man say that things had reverted to their usual course, when they heard daily of failures and distresses in every part of the country? Could any man say that the panic had subsided, when even the securities of the state, the right honourable gentleman's Exchequer bills, were at 12s. discount? Was that the time for agitating newfangled questions of political economy, or for listening to the suggestions of a set of dry philosophers, who did not care at what cost of misery or distress their experiments were tried upon the country? At the opening of Parliament, confidence had been nearly restored. The exchanges were turning as much in favour of this country as the most rigid *Bullionist* could possibly desire. Gold was pouring in as fast, and perhaps even faster, than it was required. But at the present moment the currency of the country was not sufficient, and in consequence of such insufficiency, there was a stagnation in all kinds of business. Ought the currency, then, at this critical period to be still further diminished? It should have been well considered whether the country could at present afford to provide eight or ten millions of bullion to supply the paper currency, which had and would be withdrawn from circulation to that amount. He believed several theorists, who had written books on this subject, had stated that it might be done, and that it would be a beneficial measure. For his own part, he did not understand much of political economy; but when he considered that Mr Tooke, who was a great man amongst them now in the science, as it was called, differed from Mr Ricardo, who had left a great name behind him; and then when he saw a Mr McCulloch, who had descended from heaven to set right

the opinions of both, and that no man among them seemed to be of the same opinion with another, but that they spent their whole time in writing books to contradict the best established positions of their contemporaries—he could not but feel some distrust of their knowledge. What had been the conduct of the ministry on this occasion? When Parliament had been sitting the day before, and the day after, they sent forth a decree, declaring that no more stamps should be issued for small notes; thereby disregarding the license of the bankers, breaking the law, and violating the principles of the constitution. But what was the urgent necessity for the present extraordinary proceeding? Why, forsooth, to prevent the direful consequences which would have ensued from a few bankers issuing two or three thousand one or two-pound notes. To avoid this dreadful disaster, individuals had been deprived of their legal rights, and the constitution of the country grossly violated. He had seen a letter from Lancashire, giving a deplorable picture of the state of that part of the country, where, be it remembered, there were no banks issuing notes. He had supported ministers on many occasions when he thought them right. He differed from them now; and yet he had seen the propositions of the Chancellor of the Exchequer cheered by the bitterest enemies of administration. Suppose joint stock banks should succeed, what would be the consequence? Why, they would deluge the country with the very paper which ministers wished to repress. America might teach them something on the subject of such establishments. There, banks of joint stocks swarmed in every province, and yet it was no uncommon thing for them to fail, and the paper of one province was frequently at a discount of 7 or 8 per cent in the next. The country banks deserved protection; for there were other parties, besides

them, to whom the recent convulsions in the commercial world ought to be attributed. He had no hesitation in saying, that one of the causes of the late panic was produced by the operation of Mr Peel's bill. They were told that they were then returning to a reformation of the coinage equal to that which had been effected in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. But, though such was the language then held out to them, not one word was said about the 800,000,000*l.* of debt under which the country now laboured, all of which was unknown to Queen Elizabeth. It was said that other nations, and especially France, had a currency of gold and silver; and it was thereupon asked, why this country should not have a similar currency? The reason was evident. We had spent our money; France had not. The right hon. gentleman was determined we should go on with gold, without duly weighing the means that were within our reach. If the bill of 1819 had been accompanied with the plan recommended by Mr Ricardo, that the Bank should pay only in bars of gold—then the panic would not have arisen. At that period he had recommended that silver should be the standard of our currency as well as gold. The proposition was at the time universally laughed at. But he was disposed to believe that there was some reason in what he then said, as an hon. member (Mr Baring), who was an authority upon this subject, strongly enforced the propriety of recurring to a mixed currency. The country was assured that the new measure would form the basis of permanent prosperity; and certainly that prosperity continued till last year. But then an alteration took place; and what produced it? Not the issue of country bank notes; for the difference in the amount of them was but trifling, and even that difference, such as it was, was ascertained from the most fallacious of all

criteria—the number of stamps issued. The Bank of England had likewise increased its issues, and, as he thought, unwisely and improperly; for the quantity of paper in circulation had certainly an effect on the exchanges. But with regard to their issues, government had seen them, and had not remonstrated against them. They sold to the Bank the dead weight as it was called, and by so doing gave the Bank an opportunity for sending forth an additional issue. It was his opinion that the public had received considerable benefit from the Bank issue. It had led to a reduction of some of the assessed taxes, and also to converting the 5 per cent stock into 4 per cent stock, and the 4 per cent stock into 3½ per cent stock. The House would further observe that government had entertained some fear that it would not be able to pay the dissentients to their plan of reducing the different stocks, and had therefore asked the Bank to pay them. The Bank, he believed, had done so to the amount of six millions, which occasioned another extensive issue. The House would likewise observe that government reduced the interest on Exchequer Bills to 2½ per cent.—a circumstance which, combined with the issues of the Bank, had driven all the gold out of the country. He recollected, that at the time when all these reductions were effecting, the right hon. gentleman was holding out to the country, that the prosperity of which he boasted so much was founded on a substantial basis. That declaration, coming from so high a quarter, had excited a confidence which would not otherwise have existed among the dealers in shares. The repeal of the Bubble Act increased that confidence, as did the vote which two or three of the ministers gave in favour of some of the new companies. That confidence was still farther augmented by the circumstance of the right hon. gentleman

(Mr Huskisson) having become president of a company for the breeding of silk worms. Conduct like this could not fail to produce an effect upon the country. As to the security which banks should be obliged to give, he thought it sufficient either that they should be obliged to pay in gold, or that they should give a solid security for the amount of their small notes. But whatever change in the banking system might be introduced, it ought not to be introduced hastily. The question was, in a great degree, one of time. There was no occasion for hurry. They were discussing a dry matter of business. Let them abandon theory, and look to practical experience. If they did not, this old country, with all its artificial relations of society, would be torn to pieces. Amongst the causes which led to the recent distress, was the adoption of the much lauded principle of free trade. Free trade was a good thing where countries were similarly situated; but he could not see its utility between two countries, one of which was heavily, the other lightly taxed. In short, unless they began with what he was free to state his opinion they could not begin with,—namely, a free trade in corn, he could not see the wisdom of departing from that line of policy which had made this country great and flourishing. They could not, however, adopt the principle of free trade in corn. If they had bread at a cheap rate, the poor lands must be thrown out of cultivation, and then the agricultural population would be thrown out of employment; and then where were the manufacturers to find a vent for their different manufactures? He knew that the political economists saw no evil in such a state of things: they had no objection to turn the agricultural labourers into mechanics, and the squire and the clergy into drapers and tailors, if

profit would be the result of the conversion. Profit was the perpetual burden of their song. If profit could be ultimately obtained, they overlooked all the misery which was created in the interim. So long as they had profit before them, it mattered not whether all the aristocracy, clergy, and gentry of the country, were turned topsy-turvy, and all the relations of society destroyed in one general convulsion.

Mr Peel said, so convinced was he that they ought to turn their attention to the state of the currency, that notwithstanding the prediction of the hon. alderman, he should exhort the House to take that subject into immediate consideration. Let them look at the fluctuations of the last 30 years, and say, if the system of private banking was not insufficient and insecure. Let them consider what that system was. There were 800 establishments in different parts of the country. Macpherson in his *History of Commerce*, mentioned the existence of 288 country banks springing up in 1793, as a most extraordinary phenomenon of the times, arising from the over-issue of paper. The speech of the hon. alderman contained an unintended admission of the imperfection of this system. In defending the issues of the country bankers, he had said that country bankers often increased them for the use of their immediate districts, because they knew nothing of what their neighbours were doing. What said another member (Sir J. Wrottesley?) That hon. member had truly stated, that as prices rose, the tendency of the country banks was to increase the issue of paper; and he might have added as truly, that as they fell, their tendency was to diminish the issue, and so to aggravate the evil which had arisen from the over-issue. So that the system stimulated the public whilst it was in a state of

excitement, and weakened, it when it was in a state of exhaustion. It was easy to attack his right hon. friend's resolution as providing no remedy for the present evils. The resolution did not pretend to provide a remedy; it only tended to destroy the cause, which, added to the excessive speculation, had produced so much distress. He could not help thinking that, if in 1793, a set of banks had been established here, on the system of the Scotch banks, the country would have escaped the danger in which it was then involved, as also the calamity which now impended over it. It would not be an inapt illustration of the subject to refer to the state of the banking system in 1793. What was the number of failures which had taken place among country banks in that year? Not less than 100. In 1810, it appeared that against country bankers 26 commissions were issued; 4 in 1811; 17 in 1812; 18 in 1813; 29 in 1814; 26 in 1815; 37 in 1816; and that, in the late eventful crisis, there were 76 failures among the bankers of the country and the metropolis. Let the House now look at what had been the case in Scotland. It would be seen by the evidence taken before the committee in 1819, that Mr Gilchrist, who had been a manager of one of the banks there for many years, was asked how many banks had failed in Scotland within his memory. His reply was, that there had been only one; that the creditors were immediately paid 14s. in the pound; and, upon the winding up the concern, the whole of their demands. He was inclined to look upon the effect which the present system of country banks produced upon the labouring classes as one of the greatest of its evils. At present they were sometimes paid at enormous rates, and at other times plunged into unlooked-for distress. He was satisfied that very large wages, so far from

being beneficial to the labouring classes, were really injurious to them. This observation applied more particularly to that class of labourers who were employed in manufactures; but the evil of the system was felt in a different, though not in a less severe shape, by the agricultural labourer. He did not know whether the committee which had been presided over by the noble lord (Lord John Russell) had gone very deeply into this subject; but he was quite sure that a system could not be sound or politic under which a man in perfect health and strength was unable to earn a sufficient sum for the support of himself and his family. He was quite convinced that the restoration of the circulation of the country to something like its ancient standard, would have the effect of permanently ameliorating the condition of the labouring classes of every description. It was upon them that the distress produced by the recent failures had fallen most heavily. Perhaps he (Mr Peel) was induced to dwell on this subject, in consequence of the impression which had been made on him by the scenes of distress he had witnessed from the failure of the banks in Ireland. The breaking of Lord Ffrench's bank alone produced in that part of the country which was most intimately connected with it, more poverty, and more of that misery and crime which spring from poverty, than any other event within his recollection. Having thus stated the reasons which satisfied him that the present system had a bad tendency, he would proceed to consider whether the remedy proposed would prove effectual; and further, whether this was the proper time at which it should be applied. He was first led to examine the objection which had been alleged against the principle of the joint stock banks; namely, that persons would not be

found willing to risk their property in such experiments, and that the people in general would not place sufficient confidence in them. He believed that gentlemen of property would be found, many more than enough, to execute the proposed plan. He hoped and most sincerely trusted, that the great obstacle to the proposed institutions, the want of a charter, would be removed. He declared that he could see no one advantage which the directors of the Bank of England could derive from the refusal to grant charters to country banking establishments. Having had occasion to mention the directors of the Bank of England, he would add that the conduct they had displayed during the recent crisis had increased the respect which he had before entertained for them. He wished that they would give one further instance of liberality by waiving their right to withhold from the proposed establishments the charter which they would require. The success of such institutions was sufficiently shown by the example of Scotland. He now came to the conclusion of his right hon. friend, in which he concurred,—that it would be impossible to maintain the circulation of 1*l*. and 2*s*. notes, together with a metallic currency. There could be no security till this system was altered, and a gold currency established. He had always thought that Mr Ricardo had underestimated the amount of gold which was requisite to maintain a healthy currency. On the other hand, he was not inclined, as had been said by an hon. member, to saturate the country with gold. The hon. member (Mr Baring) had overrated the currency in stating it at thirty or forty millions. Whatever it might be, he had no fears of their being able to find gold enough to conduct all their ordinary affairs. An hon. member had said, that it was impossible to ascer-

tain the actual number of country notes in circulation. Upon this point the hon. member's opinion differed from that of another hon. member, (Mr J. Smith,) who had stated, in his evidence before a committee of the House, that the average circulation of country bank notes was three years. In the last three years, from the number of notes stamped, it appeared that the amount of the circulation had been 7,600,000*l*. But from this some deductions would have to be made; and perhaps it would be considered an outside estimate of the country circulation to take it at 6,000,000*l*. But even if it should be rated at 7,000,000*l*, there was no reason to believe that it would not be possible to supply this sum in gold. Since 1819 there had been coined and issued from the Mint 25 millions of gold. Suppose that seven or eight millions had been exported, which was indeed an extravagant supposition, there were 17 millions remaining. He believed, too, that the prohibiting the issue of country bank notes would be the means of introducing into circulation many sovereigns which had been kept in the coffers of country bankers. The hon. member (Sir J. Wrottesley) thought that the country banks had the same right to issue notes as the Bank of England. But it should be remembered that the Bank charter was granted for a valuable consideration, at a time when the Bank of England lent its capital for the exigencies of the state. The only distinct proposition for postponement which had been made, was that the subject should be deferred for a month. He saw great objections to such a course. This was a favourable time for effecting that restoration of the currency which was admitted to be so desirable, and it would be impolitic and unsafe to wait the moment of returning prosperity, which would make the country

bankers more reluctant to agree to it, and more able to oppose it. To stand gazing on the bank in idle expectation, now that the river was passable, would be an irreparable mistake. The time would come when its tide would have increased—when

*“Monte decurrens velut amnis, imbres
Quem super notas aluere ripas,
Fervet, immensusque ruit.”*

His conviction that the passage would then be impossible, induced him to urge it now; and if not made now, all hope of accomplishing it must be abandoned for ever.

Mr Attwood said, that great injustice had been done by referring the first symptoms of distress which had appeared, to the failures of the country bankers. It should be remembered that several London bankers had failed before any of the country bankers had stopped, and that their stoppage had rather been the consequence than the cause of the distress. He was inclined to believe that the cause was much nearer to the heart of the system than would be readily acknowledged. Before the panic commenced, there was a suspicion afloat that government were greatly embarrassed with respect to their pecuniary engagements with the Bank. It was known that they had applied to the Bank for accommodation under very dangerous circumstances. He should like to know how they could be made more available. The Bank were placed between these two difficulties—if at the close of the last year, they had pressed the merchants for repayment of the advances which they had made to them, they would have ruined them; and if they had proceeded to sell, as they ought to have done, the government securities, he in his conscience believed that they would have ruined the government. For many years a great mass of debt had existed on the part of government to

the Bank. In 1822 that mass was enlarged. In that year ministers increased the debt of government, as a means of affording relief to the distresses of the country, which had been occasioned by Mr Peel's bill. The Bank then issued notes to a considerable amount—a measure totally inconsistent with the permanency of the state of currency established by that bill. To that bill all the present embarrassments were attributable. The object of the measure was to make the country pay debts in a currency different from that in which they were contracted. Twice had this state of things occurred, and twice had the country been relieved from depression, by the adoption of measures totally inconsistent with the principle, by acting upon which the depression had been produced. In 1821, the circulation of the Bank was at its lowest amount. In 1822 and 1823 they considerably increased their circulation; this increase was forced; it bore all the character of government money, and was founded on government securities. On the increase of the Bank of England's circulation was founded the increase of the country bank paper. The latter followed the former, and was no more than proportionate to it. This was the real speculation and over-trading of which right hon. gentlemen had said so much. The paper which had been forced on the country by the measures of government adopted for that express object, was drawn in by the operation of Mr Peel's bill. To this contraction of the circulation were owing all the recent calamities. It had been stated, that the Bank of England notes found their way back to the Bank. He would be glad to know how it was possible that any of the six millions of notes issued by the Bank since 1822 could return to the Bank. The session of 1823 com-

menced with the precious project for relieving the country by increasing the circulation by means of borrowing from the Bank. It was openly avowed that the Bank lent the money to government for the express purpose of increasing the circulation. The right hon. gentleman spoke of it as a "measure of accommodation," calculated to "afford some relaxation of the pressure of Mr Peel's bill." Then came the project of raising money upon the dead weight, the real object of which was to obtain an issue of bank notes. The issue of notes accordingly took place. Now, it was impossible that the notes thus sent forth could ever get back to the Bank until there was a demand for gold; but the demand for gold would not exist until the rate of exchange had been altered, and that alteration could not take place until the value of money, and consequently the value of all commodities throughout the country, had undergone a change. There were persons who contended that no depreciation of the value of money had taken place, because the price of gold had not advanced. In order to measure the depreciation of money by the price of gold, it was necessary to consider what the effect would be if the Bank were to shut its doors, and keep out its twenty-one millions of circulation. He had no doubt that under such circumstances, the price of gold would advance 20 or 30 per cent. The rate of prices was the best criterion of the value of money. The end of 1821 was the period when the circulation of Bank of England notes was at its lowest amount. The average price of grain throughout 1822 was 43s. per quarter. Gentlemen should consider whether it was possible ever to obtain a higher price for grain than 43s. per quarter, under a state of the currency such as that which ministers were endeavouring to establish. The House

had heard much about the importation of gold, and doubts were expressed as to the possibility of obtaining enough for the use of the country. The quantity had nothing at all to do with the question. A country like this could as easily procure twenty millions, of gold as five millions; but whilst the price of gold was fixed by law at 3*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* per ounce, we could obtain none, until we reduced the price of the commodities which we were to give for the gold in proportion. When the price of commodities was reduced proportionably with that of gold, the effect had been ruinous to our productive industry. The experience of the last ten years alone was sufficient to prove that fact. When grain was at 43*s.* per quarter, and the prices of other commodities proportionably reduced, we could get gold in exchange for them; but whenever prices were raised, gold naturally disappeared. When the circulation of paper was in its most limited state, it had been seen that grain was only 43*s.* per quarter; but the price continued rising in proportion to the issue of bank notes, to 62*s.*, 66*s.*, and 69*s.* per quarter. Ministers now came forward to deal with the paper money, and told the House that this species of currency had caused speculation and over-trading. It had done something more. It had raised prices; it had produced rents which in 1822 had no existence. It had found employment for the labourer, and had converted an almost starving population, driven to despair and seeking arms against the government, into a body of prosperous, peaceable, loyal, and contented men. He would caution ministers to take a lesson from what had passed. He would have them bring to mind the effects produced in 1792 by a course of measures similar to that which they were now pursuing. The Chancellor of the

Exchequer had referred the House to its acts of 1819, as a ground for proceeding with confidence in the course now proposed, and had dwelt upon the unanimous character of the vote in favour of that measure. There was, indeed, unanimity enough; the bill might be said to have been passed in an almost tumultuous manner. It was passed amidst tumult, and with a reckless levity ill befitting the character of grave legislation. Ministers, almost in a body, stated that under no circumstance which it was possible for the imagination to conceive, would they be induced to depart from the determination which they had formed of never again having recourse to the restriction on cash payments. How long would they hold firm by this resolution, so openly pronounced in the face of the public? Would they repeat their pledge now? After the inconsistent conduct which they had exhibited, how could they expect that Parliament could put faith in anything they proposed?

Mr Hudson Gurney said that, after giving the subject the greatest attention in his power, he should feel it his duty to move an amendment in the committee, which would be to omit the words "Notes of the Bank of England," so as to exclude their notes from the operation of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Resolution.

Mr Canning.—Before he proceeded, he would first beg leave to set himself right with the country bankers. If they had done any wrong or worked any mischief, it arose from the nature of the system which they had to administer. He stated it as his sincere and well-founded opinion, that the country banks now in existence were all stable, solid, and uninjured. On the one hand, it had been said that the measure was inefficient, mere milk and water; and, on the other, that it would bring a pressure on the country it was ill able

to bear. Both could not be true; but both might be, and were, unfounded. The causes of the present distress were causes with which they could not deal; they arose out of that extraordinary spirit of speculation which was alluded to in the King's speech. It was not possible for Parliament to deal with all that speculation which for a time filled the public gaze, "grew out of public avidity, and was fostered by public appetency to a degree which, undoubtedly, exposed us to the ridicule of all other people—speculations which sprang with the dawn, and disappeared before the sun went down, like bladders of vapour that rose towards heaven, and that the puncture of a pin brought again to the earth. Parliament could not deal with all those speculations which sprang from human avarice and enterprise. It was too much to say, because the country had run riot in speculation, that this had all been caused by the country banks. But there was one undoubted source whence this speculation derived some of its aliment; and the object his right honourable friend proposed was to stop up this one source, and leave the other causes of unwholesome speculation at present untouched. It was meant to deal with the circulation of small notes on account of its own demerits, as much as on account of its connexion with speculation. There was another prejudice which he felt it necessary to dispel—he meant the fashion of imputing to all those who thought it practicable to apply the principles of philosophy to this subject, the character of theorists and enthusiasts, who would make any sacrifice to gratify their views. If, in the course of discussion, any honourable member imputed to him matters which it appeared had their origin in genuine error and mistake, no man could feel more satisfied than he should at the explanation of such error. But when he found that the error was continued,

as, for instance, in the case when it was said, that upon the bullion question, he was one of those who voted for the immediate resumption of cash payments—where, he would ask, was the error in this case? The part he took in Mr Horner's committee he would state. He had voted for all the resolutions of Mr Horner, but those which went to open the doors of the Bank next day. He thought it right that they should adopt the wholesome advice of the honourable alderman, (Heygate,) and tread in the steps of their forefathers. There was no period of our history at which there was greater distress or greater difficulty and dismay than in 1793. Mr Burke, in describing the French revolutionary proceedings, pointed out the mistakes into which they fell with respect to our paper currency, and observed, that they seemed to imagine that the prosperity of Great Britain grew out of her paper currency, whereas, in point of fact, the paper currency grew out of her prosperity. An hon. member (Mr Baring) had stated an opinion, to which he had listened with surprise and regret, that government had so clogged and embarrassed the Bank, that that body were no longer fit and proper agents to manage the circulating medium of the country. It was said, in the first place, that the advances made by the Bank to government, amounted to 7,000,000*l*. It was added, that what were called "the deficiencies"—namely, the advances on the faith of the receipts of the current quarter, made by the Bank to the government, amounted to 5,500,000*l*. The honourable member (Mr Baring) had fixed the sum necessary for paying off the 4½ per cents at 3,700,000*l*. The "dead weight," as it was termed, he described as swallowing up 8,000,000*l*, though in fact it appeared only to require 6,500,000*l*.; and, lastly, he had noticed the sum laid out by the Bank on mort-

gage, which amounted to 1,500,000*l*. Now the objection of the honourable member did not seem to be so much directed against the amount as against the nature and principle of the different charges. He would, in the first place, observe, that the sums lent by the Bank on mortgage were no more a concern of the government than of the honourable gentleman himself. Then as to the "dead weight," he would profess fairly for himself, that he did not understand the system. But, whether the Bank made a prudent bargain or a foolish one with the government, had nothing to do with his argument. The government sold an annuity to the Bank. They might, if they had pleased, have gone into the market the very next day, and disposed of their purchase to the best advantage; and the government were no more responsible for the Bank holding in their hands that which they had bought from government, than they were accountable for any indifferent transaction of that body. The next sum was that of 3,700,000*l*. to meet the dissentients on the 4 and 5 per cents. But it should not be forgotten, that the sum was in regular course of payment, at the rate of 750,000*l*. per quarter, or 3,000,000*l*. per annum. So that, in the course of this year but 750,000*l*. would be due. Indeed, as his right honourable friend (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) intimated, the debt would be entirely done away in the present year. Then came the amount of Exchequer Bills, and what was denominated "deficiencies." The hon. gentleman thought fit to complain, because the Bank was called upon to pay quarterly dividends on certain days, for which advance the Bank was repaid by the growing produce of the revenue; that therefore that great body must be considered as out of pocket during the whole of each quarter. The hon. member took no notice whatever of the gradual reduc-

tion of the sum required. Suppose, then, that any gentleman were in debt, and thought proper to set aside 4000*l.* a-year, to be advanced in quarterly payments, for the arrangement of his affairs; suppose this gentleman should say to the agent employed in managing the payments, "All you have to do is to make the quarterly payments, and reimburse yourself out of my rents as they come in. If you are in advance for the quarter beyond what my rents may satisfy, then you may charge interest on the advance; but, if it happen that you have rents of mine in your possession beyond what is required for the payment of the annuity, I shall ask you no interest for the use of that money." Now he would ask any man, if this would not be a profitable contract on the part of the agent? But this was precisely the situation of the Bank; and he should be glad to know whether the Bank did not derive a profit from this transaction with government? He found in the bullion reports of 1812 and 1819, a distinct recommendation, that the advances of the Bank to government ought never, in fairness, to be stated, without at the same time taking into the account the balances which the government were in the habit of leaving in the hands of the Bank. And what was the average of those balances? The average of the balances which the Bank derived from the government, and which the Bank was authorized to use for its own profit, was no less than 7,000,000*l.* a-year. He had thus reduced the 24,000,000*l.* (which were described as cramping the exertions of the Bank) item by item, till nothing of the burden said to be imposed by government remained, except the 6,000,000*l.* or 7,000,000*l.* of Exchequer bills which were held by the Bank. He was sure the honourable member did not mean to say—nay, he could not mean it—that this last was an ob-

jectionable item. The original charter of the Bank recognised it. That loan was coeval with the constitution of the Bank; it was the foundation of the whole superstructure; and when the period might arrive, to strike the advances of the Bank on one side, and the balances of the government on the other, it must not be left out of the account, that the Bank were dividing 8 per cent on a capital of 14,000,000*l.* instead of 7 per cent on the original capital of 12,000,000*l.* But, as far as they had gone, he would contend they were in a situation greatly to benefit the country; nay, he would declare, that they were more disembarassed, at the present moment, than they had been for a long series of years. If, then, there were no difficulty, as between the Bank of England and the government, in carrying into effect the proposition of his right honourable friend, what were the difficulties militating against that proposition, which existed with respect to the country banks? It was admitted, that they only had an approximation to the amount of country bank notes in circulation. They would, perhaps, rate the amount rather too high at 6,000,000*l.* and rather too low at 4,000,000*l.* Well, then, what was the effect of his honourable friend's proposition? Why, that this amount, be it 6,000,000*l.* or 4,000,000*l.* should, in the course of three years, be withdrawn from circulation. There were, they had been told, about 800 country banks—that number was perhaps diminished by the late unfortunate events. But if they divided between the number of country banks he had mentioned, the amount of 1*l.* and 2*l.* notes which it was calculated they had in circulation, it would give a proportion of about 8000*l.* to each bank; and to withdraw this sum of 8000*l.* from circulation, it was proposed to allow a period of three years, or, in other words, time was given to

enable the bankers to withdraw something more than 2000*l.* and something less than 3000*l.* per annum, from their small note circulation. After all they had heard of the solidity and respectability of the country banks, surely it was not to be said, when they were called on in the course of three years to withdraw so inconsiderable a sum, that it would be such a strain on their capacity, that they could not comply without drawing ruin and confusion on the country. His right honourable friend's proposition was one that, when reduced to its dimensions, and gauged by the rules of arithmetic, would shrink into so small a compass, that individuals would be surprised to think that it could, by any power of argument, be swollen to such apparent magnitude and importance. But while he denied that the effort was one which the country could not easily bear, he deemed it necessary to remind the House, that however diminutive the immediate object might appear, the proposition was mighty in principle. It was, he repeated, mighty in principle, if its effect should be to restore, in the opinions of men, the fixed and unerring principle of a metallic standard to the country. It had been his (Mr Canning's) fortune to hear and know Mr Burke; and he had received a letter from him on this subject. The letter was written at Bath, from that bed from which he never afterwards rose. Mr Burke concluded his letter with a qualified approbation of the great measure which was then under discussion. His last expression, however, was, "Tell Pitt not to issue 1*l.* notes, for if he does, he will never see a guinea again." Mr Burke was admitted to have been a great politician, and this letter showed that he was no ordinary prophet. Few, very few persons at the time took this view of the subject. One-pound notes were abundantly issued; and at length, a resolution was brought forward,

which still stood on the records of that House, which "hedged" the pound note with a "divinity" which was never before supposed to belong to it. In the division of that day, he and the honourable gentleman (Mr Baring) opposed that resolution, to which his noble friend (Lord Bexley) was, he believed, the god-father rather than the father. Now he would argue, seriously, that the existence of that resolution formed a very good reason for acceding to the proposition of his right honourable friend. There was a sort of obscure notion prevalent through the country, that the one-pound country bank note was not convertible into cash on demand. This appeared from a petition presented by an honourable member (Mr Hume), in which it was stated that a country banker refused cash for a one-pound note. The banker mistook the law. An hon. member (Mr Attwood) said, that in passing the present resolution they would be doing more mischievous things than they could imagine at present. Now that hon. member must be a very inattentive observer, if he did not perceive in the mistake which he (Mr Canning) had noticed—a mistake existing in the mind of an educated and practical man—a germ of danger which rendered it necessary that the legislature should interfere for the purpose of its removal, and for the security of the public. An honourable member (Mr Baring) had observed that the time might come when hard necessity might compel ministers to depart from that resolution. That hon. member was mistaken. The hon. member added, that times might arrive which would induce the Bank to refrain from paying in cash. He had no more idea of the arrival of such a state of things than he had of a general convulsion of nature. Still he would not assert that such a time might not come; but this he would say, that no time would ever come

when, to ward off the danger apprehended by the Bank, he and his colleagues would consent to interpose the powers of government for the purpose of suspending the metallic currency of the country, and introducing in its place a spurious issue of Bank paper. He would ask of those who opposed the measure, to point out what good could be derived from supporting the issue of such paper—he would even ask them whether its continuance was so harmless as to demand no notice? Was there nothing beyond the swelling of prices, and the raising the value of commodities, on which he would not touch, for fear of giving offence? Was there, he would ask, no practical reason which came home to their breasts, to call for an alteration in the system? Were there no opinions in favour of those who supported this proposition? Was there no great district where those small notes never were admitted? Did not gentlemen know that a project for the issue of one-pound notes had been unsuccessfully tried some time ago at Manchester? The parties wishing for a circulation of that kind comprised names of so high a character as to put beyond all doubt their power of discharging any demands that might be made on them. He need only mention the names of Lloyd and Hayward, to show that no doubt or distrust could be entertained of the leading parties. Nevertheless, when they endeavoured to issue 1*l*. notes (a specimen of which he held in his hand,) a meeting of the magistrates, the Boroughreeve being in the chair, was called, and a strong protest was put forth against such an issue. A general determination prevailed to oppose the introduction of that system, in the absence of which some gentlemen seemed to suppose the ordinary business of the country could not go on. There was a population of nearly 2,000,000 in and around Manchester. In the metropolis and its

neighbourhood there was also an immense population, amongst whom the circulation of small notes was unknown. Here he might say there was a population of 4,000,000 Englishmen, who knew not what a 1*l*. note was, and yet they were gravely told that that species of circulation was essential to the well-being of trade and commerce. Why, it was not many weeks ago since a deputation from one of the dockyards waited on his Majesty's government, with the information that they had not the means of paying the wages of the workmen. Every bank in the neighbourhood had failed; not a bank note was to be procured, and the consequence was, they were obliged to seek for relief in the metropolis. Was not this a situation the recurrence of which ought to be guarded against? It was in vain to think of forming a gold circulation so long as the 1*l*. paper remained. While that remained, the gold must necessarily disappear. That minor paper circulation would choke up the channel of trade; and when the gold attempted to flow into it, the paper would resist it; but clear away that paper circulation, give bills of exchange to an amount infinitely greater than the notes themselves; they might pile such securities mountains high; but if in the ordinary commerce of life they irrigated the base of those securities with gold, they would answer every purpose, and would amply uphold public credit and public confidence. Some gentlemen were surprised that the same persons who condemned the smaller species of bank notes should declare themselves in favour of that of a higher denomination. The surprise, however, was, that anybody should be surprised at the distinction. The 1*l*. note had qualities which the larger note had not. The larger note covenanted to pay the equivalent in metal; but, with respect to the 1*l*. note, the promise was uni-

formly broken. When they came to this lower denomination of notes, and found that they could get nothing but paper in return for paper, what was the consequence? It produced a rise of prices, which destroyed the reward of labour, and consequently deprived the working classes of the means of subsistence. The 1*l*. note differed in those respects from the larger note. It was, in fact, a substitute for the sign and superscription of the sovereign: it was an assumption of the prerogative of the crown, and it touched the nearest interests of the labouring classes. The resolution of his right hon. friend would correct these evils. It was impossible to have heard the opposition to this measure without discovering that the opponents of it were divided into two classes. One, while they objected to the time, the mode, and the degree, did, in effect, cover under those grounds of opposition a rooted, fundamental, unsparing, and undistinguishing objection to the circulation of any other currency except that which was adopted during the whole period of the war. The difference between them and those who supported his right hon. friend's measure, was so large, that it would be fighting a shadow to oppose them on that simple question. There was another class of opponents, who objected to the alteration, because they considered that there was something peculiarly bad in the time. The present time could only be compared with the past and the future. If the hon. member (Mr Baring) wished this measure to have been taken long ago, he (Mr Canning) entirely concurred with him. But with regard to the future, he confessed he felt that no time was more likely, or could be more happy, for such an effort, than the present moment. How stood the law on the subject? And here he called on gentlemen to recollect that the law, as it at present stood, would ultimately

put an end to the 1*l*. notes: That extinction, however, under the existing law, would be coincident with the expiration of the Bank charter; and he would appeal to those gentlemen, whether that would be a convenient time to have a question of this important nature taken up? All that was proposed was, to get rid of this system four years sooner than had been contemplated. An hon. member (Mr Baring) wished the measure to be put off for a year. Another hon. gentleman wished it to be put off for a month. As the discrepancy was rather considerable, which side was to be attended to? His (Mr Canning's) objection to delay, no matter for how short a period, was—that, accompany it as the House would with comment or explanation, out of doors, delay would be considered as defeat. Those gentlemen who were most sincere in their declarations that all they desired was to obtain some farther interval before the passing of this measure, would they answer that such interval should be used for withdrawing the notes gradually from circulation? Would it not be employed in preparing new difficulties in the way of carrying the measure? Now, let gentlemen go back a little, as delay was asked, and see what had been gained by delay upon other occasions. Ministers had been assailed month after month with the reproaches, favoured session after session with the entreaties, of the hon. members on the other side, to open the commerce of the country to all the winds of heaven—to leave it free to all the wants of men. If there were any one branch of trade more than another as to which this advice had been pressed, it was the silk trade, upon which government had at length adopted it—adopted it certainly with the approbation and assistance of those by whom it had originally been given. But let gentlemen mark what had followed the pass-

ing of the new silk measures through the House. After the defeat of the opposition, all that had been asked was delay—a farther time. The time was given. How had it been used? In raising every possible obstacle to the operation of that law. Was not this a proof that, as regarded the measure now contemplated, to give time would be to give up the purpose? He hoped that it could not be necessary for him—for any minister of government—for any member of parliament,—at this time to avow that he felt deep regret—the deepest regret and anxiety for the state of the commercial interests of the country. It could not be necessary for an assembly of Englishmen to declare that they felt for the distresses of persons with whom every individual of that assembly must be more or less intimately connected and acquainted; and far less to make protest of their sympathy with all the privations endured by that more humble, but not less valuable, class of labourers, upon whose security and welfare the strength and the prosperity of the country depended. He did not mean to tell the House that the measure now proposed was levelled entirely at the protection of the higher interests; but this he did say distinctly, that it aimed directly and specifically to effect the safety of the poorer classes. It had been the wish of the most favourite monarch of France, that every peasant in his realm should have a fowl in his pot on Sunday; the measure before the House would at least do so much towards realizing that wish for the peasantry of England, that it would ensure them the possession of their fowl after they had earned it.

Mr Pearse defended the conduct of the Bank of England, and complained that justice had not been done either to the motives or interests of that establishment. The public had been

taught to form a very erroneous estimate of the profits of the Bank of England: they were by no means so large as some honourable members had insinuated. The Bank charter, too, had, on several hands, been held up as an exceeding grievance: all he would say was, that if the terms of that charter were to be materially changed, he should think it a very unfortunate thing for the country. All he wanted from the charter was, that it should secure the bankers from having a rival establishment set up in London.

Mr Baring said, what the country wanted mainly was, that the question should be set at rest: but if the House were to go into a committee, and argue the subject at length, so long as that discussion lasted, the country would be kept upon the rack. Under such circumstances, he felt it his duty to take the sense of the House at once upon the proposed measure; and he should therefore move, as an amendment, the following resolution—"That it is the opinion of this House, that, in the present disturbed state of public and private credit, it is not expedient to enter upon the consideration of the banking system of the country." If the House supported ministers against him upon this division, he would consider the issue as decisive, and give no further opposition to the measure, which, if it was to pass, he desired should pass as speedily as possible. Before dividing, however, he would desire to call attention to the very peculiar situation in which the country stood. No man who had known the country, however long, and its commercial affairs, had ever, he would venture to assert, beheld so entire an absence of confidence as at the present moment. For though a very clever speech, like that of the right hon. gentleman (Mr Canning,) delivered in the House of Commons, might conciliate and give confidence to those who

heard it ; yet to the country at large, (who did not hear it,) that confidence would not extend. He (Mr Baring) did not think there was one banker or merchant in the house, who ventured to say he thought this measure could be carried without injury to the country. On the other side, there was great strength in the way of talent—great reinforcements from the Temple, and from Lincoln's Inn—great force of those who studied from books, and held practical men in very great contempt. And moreover, with all the brilliant eloquence of the right hon. gentleman, (Mr Canning,) that right hon. gentleman would not feel offended if he (Mr Baring) said, that, upon a point like the present, he would prefer taking the opinion of the right hon. gentleman on his right hand—(Mr Huskisson.) The right hon. gentleman (Mr Canning) seemed to him to stand pretty much in the situation in which Lord Chesterfield, in part of his correspondence, expressed himself once to have been placed. "Some plain man," said his lordship, "from a corner, made a long heavy discourse upon the matter, which he understood very well ; but he mumbled and stammered so, that nobody cared to listen to him. I then got up, and without knowing anything of the subject at all, made a brilliant and dashing speech upon it ; and on concluding, carried everything before me." Let the House, however, resist the effect of this kind of fascination, as far as they could do so, and look at the question coolly. The country bank notes were charged as having caused or aided the late visionary speculations. This was all a mistake: the fact was, that the bubbles, every one of them, were town-made. It was the country booby who was the dupe to the London sharper. London, Manchester, Liverpool—these were the spots in which the vile schemes of

speculation had been invented—places in which no country one-pound bank notes existed. With reference to what had been said of the offence against the prerogative of the crown, he was entirely at a loss to imagine upon what principle it could be shown that making a one-pound note was a greater offence against prerogative than making a five. But he neither defended nor supported these notes upon principle ; he agreed that they were a nuisance, and a nuisance which ought to be abated ; and if no other argument could be adduced against them than the danger to which they exposed the working classes, that alone was sufficient. Besides, he agreed that, by taking away the notes, it would be possible to saturate the country with gold and silver. The only question between him and other gentlemen was, that of time. What need of precipitancy ? The case was put always as if the paper circulation had grown up purely by the connivance and not the contrivance of the Bank and the government. It was the parliament who had raised the paper circulation ; and then came the new theorists, calling upon the House to reverse all their former proceedings. These persons, when once they got the patient within their power, proceeded with their operations upon him, whilst his agony and suffering caused no remorse or abatement in the rigour of their practice. Two years ago he had expressed the opinion which he now held, that in the manufacture of silk, the English artist could not compete with those of France and Switzerland. The right hon. gentleman (Mr Huskisson) and his colleagues entertained a different opinion. Suppose now that the government, and those who sided with them, should finally discover themselves to have mistaken the subject. Was not one mistake enough at once ? If they resolved to try this novelty in

regulating the currency, why choose that very time for trying; the first time in the lives of any of them, the experiment of a competition with France in an open trade in silks? Suppose that they should afterwards see their mistake. Ruin would fall on millions. Trade, already in a state of great confusion, would be still more confused; and by the middle of the year, they might witness such scenes as were acted throughout the country in 1819. The blacking-man (Mr Henry Hunt) would go round, aided by crowds of itinerant patriots. The stomachs of the unhappy people being empty, their credulous ears would be open to all suggestions of sedition and discontent. He must pronounce this policy to be the most foolish risk ever incurred by any administration.

Mr P. Grenfell differed from his honourable friend (Mr Baring,) upon the question of time. As a practical man, his opinion was, that, not only might this measure be carried with safety, but that there could be no permanent safety for the country without it.

Mr Brougham, in a question of such importance, could not satisfy his mind by giving a silent vote. He begged his honourable friend (Mr Baring's) excuse for stating the reasons which caused him to differ from him. The only question, as his honourable friend avowed, between him and those who differed with him was, as to the point of time. To that he directed his attention. Without denying the consequences of over-trading, and the effects of the panic which was consequent upon it, it was manifest that the mischiefs of that panic and over-trading were greatly aggravated by the circulation of 1*l.* and 2*l.* notes. It could not escape their observation, that when a run upon a country bank took place, the run came first from the poor holders of 1*l.*

and 2*l.* notes. The failure of the banks had led to a diminution of that circulation. It was not possible, then, for a more favourable opportunity to occur; and if the resolution were not now taken to abolish the small notes altogether, how were they to entertain the shadow of a hope that it would ever be taken at all? He apprehended also, that the small note circulation would be gradually replaced by the coming in of the metallic currency. And if it were to happen otherwise, then the postponement would have no other effect than that of bringing out the small notes again, and again driving back the gold; so that, whether they advocated the delay of a year and a half, or three years, or the whole time up to 1833, the answer would be equally effectual. To whatever period they might postpone it, the paper, as before, would immediately displace the gold. This was against theory, but their own experience had shown it to be fact. Gold and paper would not hold together in the same circulation; the 1*l.* notes would infallibly take the place of the gold. Then, as he said before, at the expiration of the period, whether a year or three years were assigned, they would have to combat the self-same objections. Should distress prevail, or even the apprehension of it, they would be warned not to aggravate the evils. If, on the contrary, the country should be going on smoothly, "Oh! we are so well at present, that we could not desire to be better. Do, for goodness sake, take the advice of your forefathers, and the wise men who have gone before you, and let well alone." He had observed that the opinion of the theorists went in favour of a paper circulation convertible into gold, it being supposed by them (and he confessed that experience alone had shaken his firm belief in the same theory) that a paper payable in gold

by law, on demand, could never exist in excess. In the 1*l*. and 2*l*. notes he had found a manifest and most undeniable exception to the rule. The honourable and learned gentleman expatiated on the prospect of the difficulties which the country had, in all probability, yet to go through, which might be found scarcely to fall short of those dark and dismal scenes which had been witnessed within the last three weeks. He looked forward with dismay, and it gave him pain to mention it, to the distress of the agriculturists; and all the consolation he could offer them for the sufferings they were about to undergo was, that this measure did not pretend to be a remedy—all they could offer as compensation to the poor working class, was a steady and invariable currency, in which they would in future receive and make payments.

Mr Canning expressed a hope that as they were all agreed that the sooner the present suspense was put an end to the better, they would adopt the understanding that the present division should be considered as decisive of the main question.

The House then divided, and there appeared for the amendment, Ayes 39—Noes 222—Majority for the original motion, 183.

The House then went into a committee, when

Mr H. Gurney proposed, as an amendment to the original measure, that the small notes of the Bank of England should be excluded from its operation.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was not disposed to acquiesce in the present proposal.

Mr Maclerly referred to the state of the paper currency, and its effects in Scotland, to show that the consequences ascribed to the circulation of 1*l*. and 2*l*. notes did not attend it there.

Mr Hume said, he rose to protest against being supposed to agree with the principle which had that night been adopted. He thought paper convertible into gold by law, as under Mr Peel's bill, the very best kind of currency.

Mr Peel said his bill was founded upon the principle of Mr Ricardo, of paper convertible into gold, but its object was frittered away by the permission granted two years afterwards to country banks to issue 1*l*. and 2*l*. notes at pleasure; but for that there would not have been at the moment a 1*l*. note in the country.

Mr Baring supported the amendment.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was unwilling to reserve an exclusive privilege for the Bank of England.

Mr H. Gurney said, that had it not been for the issue of the 1*l*. notes by the Bank of England at the time, the recent calamity that befell the country would have been greatly aggravated. These issues had done the greatest good; and in the event of a similar emergency, he thought that means of a similar assistance should be available to the exigencies of the country.

The House then divided.—For the amendment, 7—Against it, 66—Majority against the amendment, 59.

The resolutions of the committee were ordered to be reported next day.

On the following day, after the presentation by Mr R. Gordon of a petition from Cirencester against the measure in progress, and a few observations by Mr Bennett, Sir T. Lethbridge, and Sir John Bridges, those of the first mentioned honourable member being hostile to the measure, and those of the other two decidedly in favour of it, the petition was laid on the table.

Mr Brogden appeared at the bar with the report of the resolutions of

the committee on the Bank Charter and Promissory Notes Acts.

On the question that the report be brought up, it was opposed by Mr Calcraft, Mr H. Gurney, and Mr T. Wilson, who affirmed that commercial distress, instead of subsiding, was lamentably on the increase; and supported by Mr E. Ellice, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir H. Parnel, and Alderman Wood, and others. But as the arguments of the different speakers were little more than repetitions of those which had been adduced during the preceding lengthened discussions, we deem it superfluous, to notice them more specially.

At length, the first resolution having been read,

Mr H. Gurney rose to move his amendment a second time, that the words "the notes of the Bank of England" be omitted.

The amendment was subsequently withdrawn; and the resolutions being agreed to, a bill was ordered to be brought in on the first and second.

Next day (Feb. 15,) after some uninteresting discussion in a committee of ways and means, arising out of a motion by Mr Herries, that the sum of 10,000,000*l.* be raised by Exchequer bills, for the service of the year 1826, and the adoption of the measure by the committee, the honourable member brought in the Promissory Notes' bill, which was read a first time.

In the House of Lords, the Bank Charter and Promissory Notes Acts Bills having been brought in, were read a first time on the 16th February; its second reading was ordered for the following day.

On which day, the Earl of Liverpool rose to move the second reading of the bill. He believed it would be most convenient for the discussion, to call their lordships' attention to both

branches of the subject. He must say that he mainly agreed with those who attributed the present embarrassments to the extravagant speculations which had been set afloat in consequence of the extraordinary prosperity of the country. Since the South Sea bubble there had been no example of such extravagancies. But the spirit of speculation was not confined to those delusive objects he had already described. It extended to all the branches of legitimate traffic. It appeared from returns, that in the year 1822, 1823, and 1824, the average imports of sheeps' wool amounted to 20,341,076 lbs. In the last year, the amount of the same imports was 38,705,682 lbs., being an increase of 90 per cent. The average imports of cotton-wool during the three years, amounted to 161,206,751 lbs. Last year, the imports of that article rose to 222,457,616 lbs., which was an increase of 38 per cent. The imports of indigo rose from 5,077,878 lbs., the average of the last three years, to 7,530,534 lbs., which was an increase of 48 per cent. The loads of square timber, imported in the three years, were 551,491, and they rose in the last year to 664,186, which was an increase of 20 per cent. In silk, speculation had been no less active. The imports of thrown silk, which were in the three years at an average 404,423 lbs., had risen to 800,501 lbs., being an increase of 98 per cent. A similar comparison with respect to raw silk showed an increase from 2,608,527 lbs. to 3,431,172 lbs., which was an increase of 31 per cent. The imports of wine, tallow, and several other articles had risen in a similar manner. Having stated this much of the overtrading, he would now touch on the question of the currency. The paper currency consisted of two branches—the notes of the Bank of England and the country banks. There were on

the table returns, which showed the state of the Bank issues from 1819 to the present year. During the years 1821-22, the whole of 1823, and the half of the year 1824, there could be no reason to suppose that the issues were in any degree excessive. In 1823, and up to August and September in 1824, the exchanges were favourable. There was no one, who did not agree that the exchanges had not then grown worse, though, from opinions previously entertained, some disputed the connexion between the currency and the exchanges. The fact, however, was, that up to August 1824, the exchanges were favourable, but that in the month of September they took an unfavourable turn. In the latter part of that year, and the beginning of the next, the Bank, instead of contracting their issues, increased them. In March 1825, however, they saw the necessity which was pressing on them, and they again began to reduce their paper. But in February 15, and March 15, they reduced their issues 1,300,000*l.* Between the 15th of March and the 15th of May, they made a further reduction of 700,000*l.*; and by November the whole reduction amounted to 3,500,000*l.* He came now to the country bank circulation. In the years 1821, 1822, and 1823, the country bank circulation was somewhat more than 4,000,000*l.* No considerable increase had taken place until 1824. In that year the circulation of the country banks was suddenly increased, from 4,000,000*l.* to 6,000,000*l.* In 1825, it exceeded 8,000,000*l.*; so that between 1824 and 1826, this species of circulation had been doubled. This fact showed how the country bank circulation went on increasing, after the Bank of England had thought necessary to contract their issues. Their lordships would recollect that the commercial embarrassments began, first of all, in the west

of England, where a great bank failed. The second failure was that of a bank in the metropolis, which was connected with more than forty country banks. The third great failure was a bank in Yorkshire. Their lordships would find, upon inquiry, that with one or two exceptions, the banks which failed in London, were such as were chiefly connected with country banks. The first object now was to apply a remedy to this crying evil. He was convinced that the cure would be accomplished with much more ease and much less clamour, now, when the difficulty was felt, than after it was over. The remedy he had to propose divided itself into two branches: the first was the gradual reduction of the paper circulation of the country; the second was the opening, as far as possible, of the banking system throughout the country, on general principles. The first measure was not now before their lordships, but was in progress in the other house of parliament. Objections, however, had been stated to both measures. The first objection was one which could not be denied. He could not deny that the withdrawing the 1*l.* and 2*l.* notes in order to substitute a metallic currency, would check the supply of circulation which trade might require, and in this way increase the distress; but their lordships must see the necessity of adopting this measure after the statements he had made. They must have observed that the country might be left in a state of perfect delusion; that the country banks might go on increasing their paper circulation, when the Bank of England, aware of the state of exchanges, were taking measures to reduce their issues. If the circulation of the 1*l.* and 2*l.* notes was replaced by a metallic currency, this could not be the case. If the country was to be exposed to a crisis of this nature, it was necessary to provide against the

evil consequences of this description of circulation to the poor man. Let anybody reflect upon the consequences produced under these circumstances by the failure of a great bank in a country town; and be it remembered, that no less than seventy or eighty of these banks had suspended payment during the late panic. The observation brought him to the next question—namely, the difficulties in the way of arriving at the substitution of a metallic for a paper currency. An objection had been made to the measure from the difficulties which would attend the substitution of a metallic currency. Now he (Lord Liverpool) would beg leave, in the first place, to call the attention of those who made that objection, to the actual situation of the country. In this great metropolis and its neighbourhood, a metallic currency alone was in circulation. The same observation applied to Lancashire, one of the most populous districts in England. Where, then, was the difficulty of extending that to the whole country which already existed in Manchester and its dependencies, and in London and its dependencies? Taking the data from the number of stamps issued by the Stamp-office for that purpose, he was sure he did not under-rate the country bank notes, he was certain he over-rated them, at 6,000,000*l.* or 7,000,000*l.* at the utmost. Now, they knew that during the period from 1819 to 1826, the Mint issued in sovereigns and half sovereigns, 25,000,000*l.* sterling, of which, in one year—namely, the year 1821—they issued 9,500,000*l.* From that sum of 25,000,000*l.* their lordships would have to deduct the amount of the gold that had been exported from the kingdom, which was 7,000,000*l.* But in addition to that which passed through the Custom-house, he was aware that considerable quantities left the country through other chan-

nels. Taking, therefore, the sum of 7,000,000*l.*, which had been exported in the regular way, and adding to it the sum of 3,000,000*l.* more as the amount of the rest,—and this he knew was a most extravagant calculation,—their lordships would have to deduct 10,000,000*l.*, as the amount of coin exported, from the 25,000,000*l.* issued by the Mint, and there would be 15,000,000*l.* as the amount which remained in the country. Then they all knew that since the month of November, in the last year, upwards of a million had been reimported. Besides, their lordships might remember the alarm which had been created some time ago, by the circumstance of a banker in Bristol refusing to pay his notes in gold; the consequence of which was, that it threw a considerable quantity of gold into the country. Now, therefore, looking at the amount of the paper in circulation,—looking at the amount of the coin issued by the Mint since 1819—he did not entertain the remotest doubt that there was quite a sufficient quantity of coin in the country to justify government in substituting a gold for a paper circulation. They did not mean, however, that the paper currency was to be withdrawn at once; it was to be done gradually, in the course of the ensuing three years. However, looking at the example of Lancashire and London, all difficulties on the subject completely vanished. Why did gold circulate there?—Because they had no paper currency. Why was there no gold in other places?—Because they had a paper currency. No fact had been more clearly established by all experience on the subject than this—that gold and paper never would circulate together. These were the grounds on which he submitted his first measure to the consideration of the House. The present system of banking laws in this country he con-

sidered to be one of the most absurd that ever was invented; it was in the teeth of all sound policy or common sense. It had grown up gradually, and was not the result of any original plan. He could easily conceive one or two systems founded upon reason and good policy, which might be adopted by banks: as, for instance, let them have a system of liberty, permitting any number of partners; or let them have a system of restriction, founded on conditions of indemnity or security, so that the public had a chance of being secure. In America, one of those systems was acted upon: for instance, in the state of Massachusetts, they had twelve chartered banks, and no others were allowed; and the moment any one of them became unable to pay their notes in specie, it was discharged. The other system to which he had alluded was one of entire liberty; and they both answered the same purpose in the end; because in a certain time respectable banks would be established, composed of a number of wealthy individuals, or formed on the principle of joint-stock companies, and these would expel the weaker or less solvent banks; so that in the end it would come to the same thing. In London the only notes in circulation were those of the Bank of England. The reason why the private bankers of London did not issue notes was, because the public would not take them, whilst they could get those of the Bank of England, in which they had more confidence. So if there were chartered banks in other parts of the kingdom, there could be no doubt but that they would immediately absorb the whole circulation of the country. Therefore, by either of those systems, the object of security would be attained. The beneficial consequences resulting from one of these systems was manifested by its

effects in Scotland. He might be told that it was in vain for him to look to the example of that country, because they had no power of granting charters. He admitted they had not, unless the Bank of England were to give up its charter; and therefore it was that he had before said that his measure was but half a one. The Bank had, however, consented to allow the restriction as to the number of partners in country banks to be removed, and so far one object was relieved of the difficulty. In return for this, the Bank would have the privilege of establishing branch banks throughout the country. He believed they had a right to do so at present. With respect to the banks of Scotland and Ireland, he was quite clear that it would be expedient to put them also upon the same footing, though not immediately. This was the general nature of the measures which he had to propose, and he should conclude by moving the second reading of the bill.

The Earl of Limerick stated with reference to the circulation of Ireland, that in the south of that country they had no currency whatever but bank notes. Gold was not to be had there. He begged the noble earl to consider the great increase of gold which would be necessary for the currency of Ireland.

The Earl of Lauderdale.—He was not called upon to say whether or not there ought to be a circulation of notes under 5*l*. He thought that this was not the time for bringing it forward; at present, it could neither be discussed within doors with temper, nor with safety without. Before they prescribed the remedy, they ought first to ascertain the nature of the disease. He (Lord Lauderdale) had heard nothing to prove that an excess of paper had existed. What, he would be most happy to know, was an excess of pa-

per? How was the existence of it to be ascertained? A quantity of circulating medium, which might be quite enough for the circumstances of the country in one state of its traffic, would be a great excess in another, *et vice versa*. They had seen the value of the three per cents rise from 75 to 97 per cent. Land, which before had been thought to be well sold at 25, fetched 33 years' purchase. The same thing had occurred with all other securities. Was it possible that the same transactions could be carried on in land and stock at high prices with the same circulating medium as at low prices? The argument was equally applicable to the rise in the prices of commodities. It was nothing, therefore, to show that the quantity of the circulation had increased; it must be shown also that it exceeded its due proportion in comparison with the amount of commodities at the different periods stated. In the present instance, how was the excess of the present circulation proved? It was said that there was a great rise in the prices of commodities. But rise of prices might proceed from an alteration in the proportion of the quantity of various commodities as compared with each other. They must go a step farther; they must prove,—if it were meant to be shown that the rise of prices manifested an excess of paper—that the value of paper was diminished in proportion to the value of commodities. Now gold was a commodity, and while paper did not decline in comparison with the price of bullion, it would be difficult to prove that paper was in excess. While a 20s. note was convertible into a sovereign, weighing 123 grains of gold and a fraction, it must be held to be an equivalent to 123 grains and a little better of gold; and therefore not depreciated, and therefore not in excess, unless it were to be attempted to be proved, that things equal to one and the same.

were unequal to one another. How stood the question with respect to the eras of scheming which had marked our later history? Was it the overabundance of 1l. and 2l. notes; was it an excess of country bank paper which set going the bubble of the South Sea project? So far from it, there were no small notes in existence in this country—there was no country bank paper at all. The same might be said of other periods. It was not the excess of paper which excited the schemes of 1793, which were happily put an end to by the war. He could not concur with the noble earl in ascribing the spirit of scheming to an excess of paper. There was a whimsical contrast observable in the opinions expressed on this subject between two eminent writers of the day, Mr Mushett and Mr Tooke. The latter gentleman attributed to high prices the propagation of all the late joint-stock companies, and wild projects of speculation. Mr Mushett assigned low prices as the cause of the same evils. Was it, then, that he was puzzled by these phenomena, and that he had no way of solving the difficulty in his own mind? No such thing. To discover the real cause of these phenomena, he was naturally led to examine the circumstances of a few years back. The real cause of the late phenomena was to be found in the working of that sinking fund, which had within a few years past been established on an effective footing of 5,000,000l. annually. Let their lordships observe how this operated, and, if it was possible, deny that instead of 1,000,000l., the former amount of the effective sinking fund, which was scarcely felt in the money transactions of the country, the public had now to contend with an excess of capital equal to 5,000,000l. thrown in, annually, to seek employment among the other interests. This it was that had sunk the

interest of the five per cents nearly as low as the interest before paid on the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. And its effect was still going on to a further reduction. They must see how the case stood with men who had disposable capital. Mortgages undertaken at 5 per cent were, in hundreds of instances, redeemed with money got at lower interest. In former periods, the same consequences had followed the diminution of interest, though no excess of 1*l.* and 2*l.* notes could be alleged. When Mr Hutchinson proposed the first sinking fund, which in 1716 was adopted by Sir Robert Walpole, the foundation of that scheme was laid in a plan for lowering the interest of the public securities. There was the same circumstance of lowering the interest of fixed securities, just before the bursting out of the South Sea scheme; and the same cause had then, as lately, led to the same disposition for adventures and projects, which deluded the capitalists with the hope of obtaining more interest, and replacing their income upon the former footing. Was there any man in the kingdom, who had talked or written upon the subject, who did not assign as the cause of the present calamity the wild and disastrous speculations and the projects of the joint-stock companies? If he was right, then the high prices had been occasioned by 5,000,000*l.* of capital coming into the market annually, as a candidate for new employment; and as its tendency was to set speculation afloat, so its operation within the last year had been to call out 17,000,000*l.* of capital, which were exhausted in foreign loans, in mining, in speculations of silk, linen, cotton, and other articles. The exhaustion of this capital, had again led to a reduction of prices equal to one-fifth. The inevitable consequence was a diminution of credit, and thence came a fall of prices in the fixed securities. The

3 per cents were before at 97, and land at 33 years' purchase; circumstances changed, and the 3 per cents were at 80, land at no more than 30 years' purchase. It was impossible that all this could be done so suddenly without producing many stoppages.—Now for the remedies proposed by the government. He wished to know, if the administration had left the country alone, what might at this time have been the amount of the loss? He would venture to say, not 2,000,000*l.* altogether. Things would rapidly have come round, and the industry of the country would by this time have been again actively engaged. For his (Lord Lauderdale's) part, he could not see those symptoms of a chief agency in the country banks to the production of the present evils. He saw, at the time, men of all parties in that, as well as in the other, house, joining in the schemes, and strengthening the opinion entertained of those schemes by the public, with the authority of their names. Why was there nothing done towards redressing this grievance as well as the over-issues of country banks? Had the government put the Bubble Act into execution? The noble lord might say that the Bubble Act afforded no security. If so, why had he not proposed some measure which would have been effective? The noble earl had taken the amount of coin actually in circulation at 16,000,000*l.* How the noble earl got at that knowledge, was beyond his ability to conceive. He would not, however, dispute the account of the noble earl. The noble earl should remember that, in respect to the country banks, it did not require a capital of more than 1,000,000*l.* to keep up a circulation of 6,000,000*l.* of notes. While this 6,000,000*l.* might have, and was supposed to have, its security on only 1,000,000*l.* of property, the noble earl was going to make

a demand on capital to the extent of 5,000,000*l.*, which the country bankers must call up. This must create a further demand for coin to the extent of 6,000,000*l.* The noble earl talked of joint-stock companies with an increased number of partners, as one remedy. If the noble lord could find men ready to embark in those schemes, in greater numbers than hitherto allowed by law, he would own himself to have greatly mistaken the subject. The increase in the number of partners, would add no security to the country banks. The richest partnership ever known in any joint-stock bank of Scotland, was that of Douglas, Herring, and Co., and they failed in 1772. Amongst other things which the noble earl had not touched upon, was the effect of the Mint regulations. The seignorage on silver was too heavy, and government would not allow anybody to issue silver but itself. At a time when they appeared so anxious to withdraw the 1*l.* notes, and to let in gold, why did they not allow a free mint in silver as well as a free mint in gold? To exclude the silver standard, which was common to all Europe besides, was to the last degree absurd, when considered in detail. It was the pride of his lordship's administration, that treaties of amity and commerce had been concluded with the independent states of South America. But some of the returns from South America would be made in silver ingots, which would necessarily be conveyed to the continent, where there was a free market, while the seignorage amounted to a tax of 1½ per cent. Some remarks he must make with regard to the application of this plan to Scotland. He confessed he had never heard any proposition with more astonishment than the plan of extending to that country a remedy for evils which only existed in this. Bank notes for 1*l.* and 2*l.*, payable on demand, had been in circu-

lation in Scotland since 1696 to the present time, without any inconvenience to the public, or loss to the poor, or suspicion of any excess of issues. The noble earl would see why he did not believe that joint-stock companies would take here, when he had explained how they were managed in Scotland. Of thirty country banks, seven were chartered, or joint-stock companies; the other twenty-three were common partnerships of four or five partners. Were these less secure than the chartered or joint-stock banks? By no means; the notes of the one were as good as the notes of the other. But what was the nature of that security? There was no bank in Scotland, whether in Edinburgh or any other part of the kingdom, the agents of which did not meet the agents of the other banks at least twice a week, when they interchanged the notes which they held of each other's banks, and the balance was paid in gold, or bills on England. How could there ever be an over-issue; and how could they derive any profit from it, should they attempt an over-issue of their own paper, when they must immediately balance the account in cash or bills on England? In fact, there never had been an over-issue of that paper. This, he knew, was contradicted by some persons, who affected to be very deeply skilled on the subject. And here he could not avoid noticing an article on this subject, which, it seemed, was to appear in the *Edinburgh Review*. But, as the *Edinburgh Review* would not be published sufficiently early to instruct their lordships in the course which the writer deemed it advisable for their lordships to pursue, the author—for such was the overweening importance that he attached to his opinions—had published this article in a separate pamphlet, and had sent a copy to each of the members of both Houses of Parlia-

ment. In that article, the writer advanced a most extraordinary proposition. The writer said, "I was much amused with the paragraph which appeared in the newspapers relative to the firmness and stability of the Scotch banks during the late convulsion. I will not say that, at the period to which I refer, those establishments were on the brink of destruction, but undoubtedly they were in a situation of very great danger. If the National Bank and the British Linen Company had not stepped forward and proffered their assistance, many of those banks, and the Fife bank amongst the number, must have stopped payment. But for this timely aid, that bank could hardly have resisted the run that was made upon it, and the stoppage must have been productive of the most disastrous consequences." Now the fact was, that the Fife bank had actually stopped payment, instead of that event having been prevented by the operations of the two establishments mentioned. The 1*l*. and 2*l*. notes of the Fife bank were dispersed amongst the poor, and it was expected that the industrious classes would have been great sufferers. But at that critical moment, the National Bank and the British Linen Company interfered, and averted the evil. They well knew what were the availing effects of the house whose credit had been shaken—they were cognizant of the fact, that their concerns had been mismanaged for three years by persons who were not acquainted with the proper mode of conducting business; and under these circumstances, they stepped forward with their assistance. Those great establishments felt that there was such security as justified them in putting an end to the evil at once. But did this circumstance afford any proof that the Scotch country banks were in danger? No such thing. It showed, on the contrary, that their foundation was solid, and

that they commanded general confidence throughout the country. The fact was, that the people of Scotland were perfectly satisfied with the currency. Why, then, should the noble earl apply to that country a remedy which he found it necessary to resort to for the purpose of eradicating a disease that happened to be prevalent in this?

The Marquis of Lansdowne said, that he would, in the first place, call the attention of their lordships to the measure which had been adopted with respect to the Bank. That measure had been only determined on in the course of the last few days. Admitting that the distress of the commercial world justified the government in interfering, still he must disapprove of the present measure. What, then, was the evil which was to be remedied? It was not the absence of money, but the want of confidence in a certain class of individuals who required to be relieved. To correct this state of things, the Bank had been sent into the market to purchase 2,000,000*l*. of Exchequer bills. Such a purchase must have a considerable effect on the market, namely, that of adding 2,000,000*l*. to the currency already in circulation; but it did not follow that the 2,000,000*l*. would find their way to those parties who were the objects of relief. This measure would, therefore, fail, in a great degree, in administering immediate relief. The most efficient course would have been to follow the example which had been set in 1793. He should now dismiss this part of the question, in order to enter on the consideration of that view of the subject which related to the cause of the evil, and which treated of a permanent remedy for it. It had been repeatedly asked, "Why should you interfere with the principle of free trade in a paper circulation, more than in any other business?" Now, advocate

as he was for the general principles of free trade, he could see no connexion whatever between those principles and the principles which governed the circulation. If the legislature were allowed to alter weights and measures, he conceived it to be quite clear, that it was equally within their power to interpose for the sake of giving to individuals either coin, or that which, under peculiar circumstances, they were compelled to receive as coin, to the extent and to the full real value of that which their labour or their merchandise ought to command. Admitting the necessity of this interference, he was of opinion, in common with every enlightened person in the country, that the evil was inherent in the system as it now stood. Some individuals, however, thought that the present was not a proper moment for the discussing and setting at rest this important question. He thought a full case had been made out for Parliament to act, and to act at once; and, when he looked to the state of disorder which prevailed, arising partly from speculation and partly from the currency, he thought the Legislature could not proceed with too much celerity. The evil which existed in the present day was not only felt amongst those whose trade was speculation, but it had found its way even to the lowest classes of life. Ought not the legislature, then, to consider what the existing law was, and to see how far the currency was affected by that law? There was a difference between the view taken by himself and that of the noble earl (Liverpool) as to the cause of the existing evil. The noble earl attributed the evil almost entirely to over speculation; but he (Lord Lansdowne) contended that the real source of the evil was to be traced to the state of the currency. The state of the currency produced speculation, which was, in fact, the secondary evil.

It was manifest by a reference to events which had occurred in the last two years, that between the currency and speculation there was a mutual action and re-action. His noble friend (Lord Lauderdale) had, however, found out another reason for this extensive speculation. He had stated that one of the great causes was the application of 5,000,000*l.* annually as a sinking fund. He argued, that if this 5,000,000*l.* were not taken from the people, it would be spent as income; but that, when applied as a sinking fund, it really became a speculating capital. He, however, could not see that the 5,000,000*l.* thus taken annually out of the pockets of the people tended more to increase the speculating capital, than if that sum were suffered to remain in their pockets. There was, however, this difference — the sinking fund consisted of 5,000,000*l.* of real capital, but the evil against which they had now to contend was, that of a nominal capital and a nominal surplus, which were forced out for the moment for the purposes of speculation. Now, on looking back a little, what circumstances did he find with respect to the speculative proceedings which afterwards took place? Previous to the period of those speculations, he found an issue from the Bank increasing in the ratio of 8 per cent from 1824, and producing some unfavourable effect. He also found in 1825, after the Bank issues had increased, that the issue of country bank notes on the average of three years had been increased about 33 per cent. Gold, he perceived, in consequence, rapidly left the country. Then came a sudden demand for that metal; and then came those failures and all those unfortunate circumstances with which their lordships were well acquainted. The increased issues of the Bank of England, in 1824, led to an extension of the issues of the

country banks. This created a rise of prices in London, and goods were sent in large quantities from the country to the metropolis. The same thing occurred in the country. An opposition rise of prices, not a beneficial one, took place there also. When, however, he stated this, with respect to the Bank of England, he was sure no one would suspect him of thinking that the gentlemen in the direction of that establishment were at all aware of the effect and influence of those issues. They were not, in fact, in that free situation in which the Bank of England ought to be placed. The noble earl had adverted to 6,000,000*l.* of Exchequer-bills held by that body; but in addition to that, they had provided for what was called "the deficiencies" in the 4 per cents: and beyond all this, they had another charge, arising from "the dead weight." By this extraordinary scheme, no less a sum than 8,000,000*l.* was taken out of the hands of the Bank and completely placed beyond their control. He remained, and always should remain, the firm supporter of the doctrine which held as beneficial, a paper currency convertible into cash; but it was necessary to have a sound circulation in the country, that the convertibility of paper into cash should be immediate—that the check to an improper issue of paper might be resorted to without delay. But, unhappily, such a state of things had arisen as prevented the application of that check and remedy until a great number of persons had sunk under the pressure of the times. Neither government nor parliament could do anything at the moment to arrest the evil. It had, however, in some degree effected its own cure, for the exchanges had at length come round. At the very moment, however, when all this mischief was in progress—when the worst evils were afloat—when the 1*l.*

and 2*l.* country notes were in active circulation—and when the exchanges were beginning to turn against this country, he found his Majesty, at the close of the session, congratulating the two Houses on the flourishing condition of the country. He (Lord Lansdowne) did not mean to contend that there was not much prosperity in the country; but he complained, that at the very moment when this Speech was made, notwithstanding the avowed knowledge of his Majesty's ministers that there was great mischief brewing with respect to the state of the currency, Parliament was suffered to separate, in July 1825, without any step being taken to prevent the frightful misfortunes which had since occurred. The lessons which they had received for the last three years clearly proved the great importance of placing the entire currency of the country on a broad metallic basis. Whenever Parliament attempted to give a fictitious aid to the currency, the attempt had uniformly failed. There was no royal, there was no parliamentary road by which they could contract engagements beyond what they had the means and power of fulfilling. No sooner had that famous resolution been passed some years ago, ascribing to the bank note a value that did not belong to it, than the evil of such a monstrous proceeding became manifest. He certainly approved of the measure which the noble Earl proposed for removing one portion at least of the paper circulation of the country, because it would afford that security to the poorer classes which should be a primary object with the legislature. The withdrawal of those notes would also materially alter the relation between the proportion of metallic and paper circulation; and unless it did that, he was sure that no benefit would result from the measure; and if the suppression of the 1*l.* and

2*l.* notes were not adequate to the accomplishment of that object, then he would recommend that parliament should proceed still further. With respect to the other measure—the formation of a different description of country banks—he certainly was one of those who thought that in its present form that measure would not be very extensively acted upon. But he yet sincerely hoped to find the scheme placed upon a more practicable footing; and that the Bank would not resist such an alteration in its charter as would substitute a sound and secure system of banking for an unsound and dangerous one. With reference to Scotland and Ireland, where none of the same evils under which our own country was suffering at present existed, a greater space of time perhaps might be allowed for effecting the proposed change, than that which he understood the noble earl (Liverpool) to suggest; but ultimately, no doubt, he agreed with the noble earl in the propriety of bringing both those countries under the operation of the same system.

Lord Bexley differed in opinion from those who thought the concession of the Bank not likely to be acted upon. He looked to Ireland as an example of what might be anticipated in this country. Since the charter of the Bank of Ireland had expired, several banking companies had been instituted, and already the circulation and credit of Ireland had greatly improved. He was desirous of giving some explanation respecting the measures of temporary relief by which the Bank of England, by the purchase of Exchequer bills, had thrown a large and seasonable supply of money into circulation. The relief by the purchase of Exchequer bills was more speedy and immediate than by the issue of Exchequer bills. In the latter

case, it was necessary to go through the form of an inquiry by a committee, afterwards to pass acts of parliament, and in the application of the relief, to inquire into the character of each individual. The noble marquis (Lansdowne) had done justice to the Bank of England. He (Lord Bexley,) in the course of many years' experience, had found abundance of sagacity and good sense, as well as integrity and good faith, in the management of the concerns of the Bank. The noble marquis, however, while he did justice to the Bank, had done great injustice to government.

Lord Ellenborough.—The measures at present proposed, as he understood them, were three: one intended to afford immediate relief, and the other two to prevent a recurrence of the evil under which the country laboured. Now the measure of relief, he thought, was insufficient. It would not relieve those classes who were most deserving of assistance. With reference to the second measure, the establishment of a new description of country banks, the noble Earl (Liverpool) had seemed to regret that it was not in his power to grant charters. He (Lord Ellenborough) had not quite the same feeling; and as for the formation generally of joint-stock banks, the events of the last few years had not led him to look with an eye of great favour upon joint-stock establishments. The measure for putting an end to the circulation of small notes at the end of three years, was a measure only of justice and humanity to the poorer classes; but still it was not a measure which would reach the causes of the existing mischief; for the noble earl would find, that of 3,000,000*l.* of country bank paper, issued between last year and the year before, scarcely 1,000,000*l.* had been issued in notes under 5*l.* Therefore the

truth was, that the putting an end to the circulation of 1*l*. and 2*l*. notes was not going far enough.

The Earl of Liverpool briefly replied.

The bill was then read a second time, and ordered to be committed on Monday.

In the House of Commons, upon the same day, the Chancellor of the Exchequer rose to move the order of the day for the second reading of the promissory-notes bill. Before he did so, he wished to state to the House that it was his intention in the committee to submit a proposition, not to the extent suggested by an hon. member (Mr H. Gurney,) which he thought went too far, but a modification of it. It was his intention to propose, that instead of prohibiting the Bank of England from issuing small notes, dated subsequently to the 5th of February last, they should be allowed to issue such notes dated previous to the 10th of October next. The object of this proposition was, to give the country bankers facilities for preparing themselves for the effects of the bill, and the gradual withdrawal of their notes.

Opposition to the general measure was renewed by a few members, and the modification of it, now proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was resisted by others. Among these was Mr Tjerney, who observed that he cordially assented to the principle upon which the contemplated measures of ministers were founded—namely, the speedy return to a metallic circulation. He knew it to be a sound principle—he thought the government were serious, and knew what they were about respecting it: indeed, he admired them for the apparent stoutness with which they had brought forward the measure. But what was the case now? The ministers had no sooner announ-

ced their plan, accompanied by this firm declaration of its inviolability, than they came forward with a new proposition, which, mitigate it as they would, was a material abandonment of the principle with which they had set out.

The House was not divided. The bill was read a second time, and ordered to be committed on Monday.

In the House of Lords, Monday, Feb. 20, the Earl of Liverpool moved the order of the day for the committal of the Bank Charter Bill.

Lord King, and also the Marquis of Lansdowne, in allusion to the amendment moved in the other House upon the 16th by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the Promissory-note bill, said, that if the bill before the other house should pass, unguarded by any restrictions, it would be doing nothing less than giving the Bank a power to defeat the whole measure.

The Earl of Liverpool expressed his willingness, if the bill did not come up in a satisfactory shape, to concur in any amendment which their lordships might consider necessary.

The Earl of Rosslyn deprecated any interference with the currency of Scotland; and the Earls of Limerick and Blessington hoped that any measure affecting that of Ireland would be gradual.

The Earl of Rosebery wished to be informed by the noble earl, (Liverpool,) whether he proposed bringing forward any measures upon this subject, with respect to Scotland, in the course of the present session?

The Earl of Liverpool replied, that it was the intention of government to submit propositions to parliament this session respecting both Scotland and Ireland.

The Earl of Lauderdale rose to state his conviction that there was no man of any class, or of any party, who

would for one moment hesitate to express his complete satisfaction with the state of the currency as it at present stood in Scotland; nay, who would not state it as his conviction, that that part of the kingdom owed the prosperity which it was now enjoying, to the mode in which the circulation was there managed. There was no manufacturer of any description in that country, who would not tell the noble lord, that the ruin of the branch of manufacture to which he belonged would inevitably follow, if the present circulation were meddled with. He, therefore, conjured the noble lord and the house to ponder well before they adopted a measure calculated to overturn the present prosperous condition of so important a portion of the kingdom.

The House then went into a committee, when, after a few words from Lord Ellenborough,

The Lord Chancellor proposed some verbal alterations in the bill:

After which, the House resumed. The report was brought up, and ordered to be recommitted on Friday.

The same day, in the Commons' House, Lord Folkestone presented a petition from an individual who was, in his opinion, one of the ablest men in the country, and he believed that most hon. members would agree with him in this opinion. The petitioner (Mr Cobbett) stated,

"That the last sixteen years had witnessed four sudden changes in the value of money; that every change had been attended with great masses of ruin; that at every change the working classes had been sunk deeper and deeper in poverty and want, till at last they presented a spectacle of human wretchedness and degradation such as the world never before beheld; that all this ruin and misery

had been caused by acts passed by the hon. House; and that, previous to the passing of every one of these acts, the petitioner had distinctly and publicly predicted the fatal consequences of the said acts respectively, each and every of which had fulfilled his predictions to the very letter."

"That in the bill then before the hon. House, the petitioner saw a design to cause gold and silver to be the circulating money of England; that he knew, as well as he knew that fire burned, that if gold and silver should be the circulating money of England, more than half the then present nominal amount of the taxes could not be levied, without producing ruin and wretchedness absolutely insupportable; and that, therefore, while he expressed his gratitude to the hon. House for their laudable design to restore to the people the security given by his Majesty's coin, he most humbly, but most earnestly prayed the hon. House to reduce the taxes to an amount not exceeding that which was their amount before the small paper money supplanted the coin of his Majesty."

The petition was ordered to be printed.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer having moved the order of the day that the House resolve itself into a committee on the Promissory-note bill, stated in reply to a question from Lord A. Hamilton, that he should not defer drawing the attention of the house to the question, as it regarded Scotland, beyond the present session.

Mr Grenfell suggested, that a clause should be introduced into the bill, compelling the Bank to return a statement of the amount of their small notes in circulation up to Saturday evening in every week; and also a return, at the end of every quarter,

of the amount of such notes in circulation during the preceding quarter, to be inserted in the *Gazette*.

Mr Calcraft hoped that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had fully reflected on the difficulty of the task he had undertaken—that he had not miscalculated his resources, but knew where to procure a sufficient metallic currency for England, Scotland, and Ireland.

Mr Whitmore highly approved of the present measure; but in order to render it efficacious, it would hereafter be necessary to extend it not only to the 1*l*. and 2*l*. notes, but to the 5*l*. notes as well. As long as a paper issue prevailed, these disasters would always be of occasional recurrence.

Mr Maberly expressed great dissatisfaction at the power which the Bank possessed of raising or depressing at its pleasure, and to such an alarming extent, the property of every man in the kingdom. If the Bank was to have the power of issuing notes when it pleased, it was necessary that the country should have some mode of checking it, either directly or indirectly. He therefore proposed to introduce into the bill a clause to this effect—“That on the 15th of every month an account be published in the *Gazette* of the amount of bank notes in circulation during the previous month.” Such an account was published by the Bank of France, which, unlike the Bank of England, gave publicity to all its proceedings, both of profit and of loss. Another point he would recommend related to the exchanges. Great differences took place at various times in the rate of exchange, creating an equal difference in the issues of the Bank of England. Now, to guard against that evil, he would advise a reconsideration of the question of exchanges in general, so as to arrive at a better conclusion as to what was the real par of exchange. A clause he would propose was, “That

an account be published monthly of the quantity of Exchequer-bills sold or otherwise disposed of, together with an account of those paid off and received.” Without some such arrangement, it would be impossible to guard the public against fluctuations similar in effect and consequence to those under which it had recently suffered.

Mr Hume contended, that there was no proof of any over-issue of 1*l*. or 2*l*. notes. He would ask, had there been any period, within the last three years, in which Bank of England notes had not been convertible into gold? He was sure that there had not; and if so, the paper currency had not been depreciated. He would ask the right hon. gentleman whether he meant to say that the over-issue consisted in the increased circulation of the 1*l*. and 2*l*. notes from 2,000,000*l*. to 4,000,000*l*. and not in the increased circulation of 5*l*. notes, which was trebled within the same period? If the over-issue were the cause of the evil, why was not the issue of 5*l*. notes to be restricted in the same manner as that of the 1*l*. and 2*l*. notes? Did the right hon. gentleman mean to say, that the commerce of this country could be carried on with metallic currency alone? Surely not. He (Mr Hume) had seen in India the inconvenience occasioned by having nothing but a metallic currency. If half a million of money had to be transported for the use of government from one part of India to another, it could only be done through the instrumentality of a cart and a party of Sepoys. The supreme government of that country had been obliged to establish a bank for the purpose of removing these difficulties. The whole of the late evils must be attributed to the government not putting the country banks upon a good principle. It was his opinion that no banker should be allowed to issue a 1*l*. or 2*l*. note until he had deposited a security for it. A deposit

should also be taken from those who issued large notes to full two-thirds of their value; and if there was ever a failure in the payment of them, the recovery of them should be effected by a summary process. In the United States, they had an example of banks established on the best principles. From an account of the manner in which the capital of one of these banks was employed, it appeared that out of 35,000,000 of dollars, 33,000,000 were employed in discounts, a liberality which formed a striking contrast with that of the Bank of England, which, out of a capital of 11,000,000*l.* only employed 2,500,000*l.* in discounts. Out of 35 banks which had been established by the legislature in the state of New York, not one had failed; and that which had occurred two months ago in Scotland, had occurred 15 years ago in America; for during the distress which then prevailed in that country, all the banks voluntarily came forward to support each other. He thought that the principal cause of our present situation was the measure which government had taken to reduce the interest of money, in conjunction with the Bank and other public bodies, with whom it ought to have had no connexion whatever. It was too much the fashion to praise the Bank of England for what was called the liberality of their conduct. The conduct of the Bank it was, that fostered the spirit of speculation, and raised the fever to its greatest height, and at that moment they thought fit on a sudden to draw back. This occasioned the panic which seized the whole commercial world, and led to the distress which the House was now called upon to remedy. By the accounts it appeared that ten millions had been paid by England, in foreign loans, in 1824, and more than six millions in 1825. The total capital of foreign loans at present in the British money market

amounted to 33,000,000*l.* Independent of the mischiefs resulting from these extravagant loans, the calamity was heightened by the increase of importations of cotton and other articles over former years, and over a commensurate demand for them. The total value of these articles of increased importation was about six millions. All these articles, he supposed, were locked up in warehouses, there being no suitable demand. The following was the statement, up to the present date, of the advances made on foreign loans, mining shares, and adventures, &c. which showed the total money expended, for which a market was want-

Advanced for Foreign Loans	L.8,125,700
Ditto, Foreign Mining Schemes and Adventures	3,097,000
Ditto, for excess of import of Goods, valued at the present low and ruinous prices . . .	6,000,000
Ditto, for more paid for the Goods imported in 1824 and 1825, than can now be obtained, or has been obtained for them by sale, since they were imported, 10 per cent on the total import of 1825, L.36,000,000 . . .	3,600,000
Total	L.20,822,700

The government, by adopting the present measure, would only prove themselves to be disciples of Mr Cobbett; they would echo the alarm which he was incessantly sounding. As the law at present stood, all the advantages which could be produced by a paper currency, convertible at will into gold, might be obtained. To relieve the enormous expenses of our establishments, would go further towards remedying the evils than any of the measures which ministers were so ready to follow. He should therefore move as an amendment, "That a select committee be appointed to consider of the best means for placing the banking establishments of the United

Kingdom on a better footing ; for securing the holders of bank notes against loss ; and for ensuring a metallic circulation in the country, commensurate with the wants of commerce, and the security of the country at all times."

Mr Ellice seconded the motion.

Colonel Davies said, that the plan of Mr Ricardo, which his hon. friend (Mr Hume) had advocated, had been tried, and the result was now before the eyes of the House. Such a currency we had at this moment, and it entirely failed of its purpose.

After a few words from Mr Canning, as to the formality of Mr Hume's amendment, the amendment was negatived without a division, and the House resolved itself into a committee on the bill. The first and second clauses were agreed to, with some verbal amendments.

On the third clause being read, The Chancellor of the Exchequer rose to move an amendment to the clause, pursuant to his proposition of last night, for substituting the words "10th October, 1826," with regard to the small notes of the Bank of England, instead of "5th February last." As this proposition had been misunderstood, he would observe that it was not intended by the amended clause to leave the Bank of England the perpetual power of issuing 1*l*. notes, after other establishments had ceased to do so. The Bank of England would have no power to retain their 1*l*. notes in circulation one hour after the other banks. Its only object was to enable the Bank of England to issue notes dated subsequently to the 5th of February last, but prior to the 10th of October next, for currency during the three years in which the small notes would be allowed to circulate ; whereas the notes of country bankers could not be issued if not stamped prior to the 5th of February last. The effect of this was to enable the Bank of Eng-

land to supply, for a limited-time, and to a limited extent, any sudden vacuum which might occur in the circulation of the country banks. No one could doubt, if this measure was suffered to annihilate the small notes at one blow, it would be a great aggravation of the difficulty of carrying the proposed change into effect. For the purpose of guarding the government and the Bank against any suspicion of being actuated by secret motives, in giving this further currency to 1*l*. notes, he should propose a clause by which the Bank should be required to lay before the Privy Council, and publish in the *Gazette*, an account of all the small notes they should issue under this bill ; which account should be laid before Parliament, if sitting.

Mr Abercrombie confessed that he had never heard a speech less convincing than that of the right hon. gentleman ; a speech which showed, that however correct in point of theory were the principles avowed by ministers, they shrunk from carrying them into practice. The right hon. gentleman had failed to show that there was anything now to be adduced, which he might not as well have stated last Monday. Under these circumstances, the amendment could only be considered as a defeat of the measure. The original proposition of the Chancellor of the Exchequer had settled the question, or seemed to do so. Ministers had been sustained in that proposition by an overpowering majority—a majority of more than 200 ; and they now came down—was this consistent or reasonable?—with an amendment which entirely altered the nature of their original measure, and for which their only reason was in the teeth of every fact and every principle upon which they had relied a week ago !

Mr J. Smith differed entirely in his view of the present proposition from

the learned member who had last spoken. He was convinced that, if it was not supported by the House, the original measure never could be carried into execution.

Mr Pearse said that little danger was to be apprehended from the present measure, as all notes which the Bank might issue, they would be liable at once to pay in cash; and were not at all unlikely to be called upon to do so.

Mr Canning observed, that in the debate on Friday, he (Mr Canning) had endeavoured to show the country bankers that their interest, as well as the public convenience, lay in their spreading the withdrawal of their notes over a larger space of time; and this view was supported by almost every member who took part in the discussion. But the bankers had not taken this advice. Reports were coming in from all quarters, since that debate, that the country bankers were suddenly and materially contracting their issues. Now it was the duty of government to consider what would be the effect of this sudden and complete withdrawal of all the 1*l*. and 2*l*. notes in circulation. It was clear that there was no remedy for this, unless gold could at once be found (which nobody pretended could be done) in sufficient quantity to fill up the vacuum—no remedy but that which was proposed by the present measure, namely, to allow the Bank of England to go on issuing 1*l*. and 2*l*. notes. At the present moment, a crisis had not occurred; but there were symptoms which showed that a too sudden contraction might produce great mischief, within the period at which sanguine men believed a gold circulation might find its way into the country.

Mr Tierney.—If he could be satisfied that the effect of this amendment would be that which the right hon. gentleman (Mr Canning) had stated, he would certainly agree to it. But

because he was of opinion that no such effect would follow—because he was convinced that, in 1829, the legislature and the country would be placed in just the same difficulty as they had now to contend with, he felt himself obliged to oppose the proposition. If there were no alteration in the principle of the bill, how happened it that the hon. member (Mr H. Gurney), who formerly resisted the bill as highly dangerous in principle, now discovered that his objections were removed by giving the Bank of England an unrestricted power to issue 1*l*. notes? He appealed to every gentleman at all connected with the pecuniary affairs of the country, whether the proposed alteration did not materially change the aspect of the measure, as far as regarded paper currency? Paper currency was beginning to be at a premium—things were looking up in the paper world, in consequence of this amendment. The right hon. gentleman had stated, that there was a determination, on the part of country bankers, to throw impediments in the way of a return to gold circulation. The country bankers, like good soldiers, appeared to obey the word of their commanders very promptly. When they found how matters were going on, they cried out to their leaders—"If we are to mutiny, we are quite ready;" and they had acted, it seemed, effectually; for no man could deny that the whole of this new proceeding was an admission, that the steps taken by the country bankers to stop the country circulation formed the ground, and the sole ground, for this measure. He complained, therefore, that the government had not boldly faced that body. He knew it was difficult to speak of the Bank of England without appearing to attack them. For many of the directors he entertained a high respect; but, as a body, he entirely distrusted them; for he was convinced that the incautious man-

ner in which they had proceeded with their discounts had added greatly to the late spirit of speculation. Oh, but then it was said, "See how handsomely they came forward afterwards to check the mischief." So they did—they issued about 8,000,000*l.* of paper in the course of a few days. Very true—but had the directors no interest in this issue? What were the directors? All merchants; and if others were in danger, they were not less in danger themselves. Hence the secret of their extraordinary liberality. Nothing could be more preposterous than for the directors to claim credit upon this score. It was like a man claiming a reward from the Humane Society for saving a boy from drowning, and being met by the declaration—"but it was you that pushed me into the water." He would contend, that in three years the legislature and the ministers would be placed in the same situation as at the present moment; only that they would not have the opportunity of acting under circumstances so favourable as those of the present day. It was impossible to imagine how the country could stand in a better posture for extending the metallic currency than at this moment: it was now impossible to keep gold out of the country, instead of its being a matter of dexterity how to bring it in; foreign exchanges were all in our favour, and foreign powers were on the most amicable footing. Why, then, should the change be postponed for so long a period? If he could satisfy himself that this amendment would be "the be all and the end all" of the paper system, and that at the end of three years a wholesome metallic circulation would be introduced, he would give the measure no farther opposition. But being satisfied that this was not likely to be the case; being deeply and conscientiously convinced that much evil would result from the measure, he felt himself called on to oppose it.

Mr T. Wilson said, that many parts of the country were at this time in a state of starvation, for the want of some sort of currency. The amendment was a most advantageous one, and he would give it his support.

Mr Peel.—The right hon. gentleman (Mr Tierney) asserted that there was a mutiny among the country bankers. When those who owed allegiance to government were so unwise as to assail it with mutiny, it was fit that government should deal with them as they deserved; but these persons had done nothing but what the law allowed; and for ministers to say, "We will take no step while they are in a state of insubordination," would be a gross abandonment of the principles of good government. It would be absurd for a government to say, when novel difficulties sprang up, "We will persist in the course we have already taken, on the right or on the left," without considering which was the more expedient course. If the conduct of the country banks were productive of great local distress, then he conceived it to be a wise measure on the part of government to provide some means to counteract that local depression.

Mr Ellice agreed with the right hon. gentleman (Mr Peel) that the government was not, in their fondness for a particular plan, to pursue it contrary to the public interests. But there was no case made out.

Mr Irving said, that he was much more reconciled to the bill by the clause which was now to be added, than he could have been without it.

Mr Baring said, that he should support the bill with the clause, though he had opposed it without the clause. In the principle of the measure he coincided. No gentleman could be more fully convinced than he was, that the circulation of 1*l.* and 2*l.* notes was a perfect nuisance—that with such a circulation there could be no return to a

metallic currency. But his doubt on the original measure was, that they could not come at their purpose by a direct course "as the crow flies."

Sir John Newport and Lord Folkestone opposed the amendment.

Mr Brougham could not vote for the clause consistently with the principles which he had supported.

Mr Hume said, with reference to the measure under consideration, it had been observed that there appeared to be at present a great disposition to withdraw country notes from circulation; but if they were withdrawn, how was the vacuum to be supplied? For himself he never desired to see any more one-pound notes in circulation after the prohibition by which notes were forbidden to be stamped should take effect; but they were bound not to be unprepared for an emergency; and who could tell but there might be at no very remote period an occasion to call for that aid which it was the duty of government to keep in reserve?—He agreed with the learned gent. that the Bank ought not to be allowed to establish the branch banks unless upon the principle of making payments in gold. The country bank notes of one pound were payable in gold on demand; but all such notes of above one pound in value, were not payable on demand in the country, but only payable on demand in London. (No, no, from the Opposition.) At least this statement had been made by the honourable member for Staffordshire; and if it were the case, to what a state might not the country be reduced? Suppose that all 1*l*. notes were withdrawn from circulation, country bankers might refuse to pay their 5*l*. notes. Therefore, it became doubly necessary for the government to provide against this danger, by having a substitute at hand, by which it could be averted.—The Bank only seconded the wishes of the government to have a power within

its reach of providing against pressure and calamity, if such should unfortunately visit us again.

The committee then divided:—

For the amendment, 187.—Against it, 24.—Majority, 163.

(The announcement of this majority was loudly cheered in the committee.)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer asked whether the hon. gentleman (Mr Maberly) meant to press a division upon some of the points that he had alluded to in the early part of the evening?

Mr Maberly replied, that undoubtedly he would press for a monthly return of the Bank issues so long as they were empowered to make them. With reference to the rate of the exchanges, and the accounts of imports and exports from the Treasury, a longer time might be allowed—say three months,—from the greater difficulty of making up such returns; but the Bank ought to be ready with monthly statements of its own issues.

Mr Brogden then brought up the report of the bill, which was ordered to be printed, and taken into further consideration on Thursday next.

In the House of Commons, on 23*d* February, Mr T. Wilson presented a petition from the merchants, traders, and others connected with the commerce of London, for relief. After stating the pain he felt in opposing those ministers, who, however much he might disapprove of the course they were now pursuing as to the state of the country, were no doubt acting honourably, openly, and manfully, in the discharge of what they considered to be their duty, he said, that it would not be denied that at this moment the great pressure of commercial embarrassments was felt, not alone in London, but throughout the mercantile world. In this state of difficulty, application was made to government for an issue of Exchequer bills, as loans to the commercial world.

To this application ministers gave a decided negative. For his own part, as a practical man, he would say, that as such a measure had been found effectual in former emergencies, he thought it should be resorted to in the present. Ministers, however, resisted the application, on the ground that it would be inexpedient, as establishing a bad precedent. The hon. member proceeded at great length, and with considerable eloquence, to advocate the claims of the petitioners, and concluded by stating his intention, on Tuesday next, to move for a select committee to inquire into the present distress of the commercial world.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer.—When the hon. gentleman, the other evening, asked, whether it was the intention of government to submit any proposition to Parliament, after the example of two former occasions, he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) felt it his duty at once, distinctly and unequivocally, to state, that, in the opinion of government, it would be highly dangerous, if not fatal to the permanent interests of the country, on the present occasion, to interfere. He knew that he was rendering himself liable to be taunted with departing from the example which had been set him on a similar exigency by a great man, and one of whose general line of policy he most cordially approved. But he much lamented that that example had ever been set—the first step should have been avoided. It appeared to him, that the attending to the application would be holding out a bonus to extravagant speculators.

The petition was supported by Mr A. Baring, Mr John Smith, Mr Holme Sumner, and others, and opposed by Mr Canning.

Mr Pearce said, that he wished to explain the grounds on which the Bank conceived that they would not be justified in interfering with the present

distresses. The Bank directors thought that a much better course might be pursued, and had been advised, which would be free from all the objections to which the former was exposed, and which seemed so calculated to meet the evil, that they were persuaded the wisest plan would be, that an advance should be made by the ministers. No issue from the Bank, to whatever amount, would have the effect that this measure would immediately occasion; because it would restore that public confidence which, although it had originated with the actual distress, had made distress infinitely more dangerous and universal. The Bank certainly possessed the power of lending money upon the deposit of goods; but that was a permissive power, and the few occasions upon which it had been exercised, showed that it was not intended nor calculated for being frequently resorted to. He could not imagine any objection to the advance of Exchequer bills by the government; and this was the opinion of all the persons (the Bank directors) with whom he had the honour to act. He would undertake to say, if it were merely made known to-morrow, without even the issuing of a single pound, that such a measure would be adopted by government, the effect would be to restore confidence.

Mr Calcraft gave notice, with regard to the promissory-note bill, that he should propose that the country banks should have the same privilege of stamping their small notes until the 10th of October, as that granted to the Bank of England.

The Speaker having left the chair, the House went into a committee on the bill, whereupon some verbal alterations were suggested.

On the clause being read, which directed that the Bank should make returns every month to the Treasury of the amount of its small notes in circulation, since the preceding month,

Mr Maberly said, he thought it important that the country should know, not only the amount of the small notes, but also the whole amount of all the issues of the Bank since the preceding month. He would therefore move, that to the words of the clause there be added—"and also an account of the amount of all notes in circulation since the last day of the preceding month."

Mr Huskisson observed, that the House might as well call for the publication of all the other proceedings of the Bank, as for the account proposed. He therefore objected to the amendment.

After some further conversation,

The Chancellor of the Exchequer consented to adjourn the discussion, whereupon,

The Chairman reported progress, and asked leave to sit again on Monday.

In the House of Lords, on Feb. 27, the Earl of Liverpool moved the order of the day for bringing up the report of the committee on the Bank Charter Bill.

Upon its being read,

The Earl of Liverpool moved the introduction of his clause respecting the discretionary power to be vested in the branch banks.

The Marquis of Lansdowne moved, that a proviso be added to the clause, compelling the Bank of England to pay its notes in coin in any part of the country in which it had been issued through the medium of its branch banks.

The Earl of Liverpool agreed that this proviso was one of some difficulty, but still he thought it was founded on good principles.

The clause, together with the proviso, having been adopted, the report was agreed to.

In the House of Commons, the same day, on the order of the day for the

House resolving itself into a committee on the promissory notes bill,

Mr Hume said, that the right hon. gentleman (Mr Huskisson) and the supporters of this bill, were guilty of retracting the principle so ably set forth in the report of the bullion-committee, that the best system of currency was a paper one, convertible at pleasure into gold. He must protest against any bank notes of any kind being driven from circulation, because they must be replaced by a much more expensive currency, which would have to be purchased by substantial capital, and must, consequently, withdraw so much of it from being applied in advancing the trade and manufactures of the country. It had been recommended in his Majesty's Speech that the banking system should be placed on a sure basis. Bank notes might be suffered to remain in circulation without any evil consequences, if the issuers were required to lodge deposits, and there would be no great difficulty in effecting this. Another provision, which he wished to have introduced into the bill was, that all notes should be payable on demand at the place where they were issued. He also wished that both the Bank of England and all other banks should be required, on the 15th of every month, to publish an account of the amount of their notes in circulation.—He expected that he should be told that his plan was a mere theory, which never could be reduced to practice; but he would remind the House, that during the last year there had been an increase of 2,000,000*l.* in the paper circulation of Ireland, and still that country had not met with similar disasters in its banking establishments as had befallen this kingdom. Scotland had also escaped; indeed, it was scarcely possible that any loss could arise from the chartered banks there. America also afforded an instance of the good effects of adopting

the system of banking he had proposed. In the State of New York, there were 35 chartered banks, and no private bankers whatsoever. It was invariably required, that all the capital should be paid up before they were allowed to issue a single note; they were all required to furnish an annual account of their issues, and indeed of all their transactions, to the government; and if there appeared the least suspicion as to the solvency of any of them, a commission was immediately appointed to examine into and report on the matter. Such were the good effects of this system, that since the year 1816, only one failure had taken place amongst these chartered banks, and that arose from its being connected with a private bank in another province. In Massachusetts and New Hampshire, there were both chartered and private banks; with the chartered banks the non-payment on demand *ipso facto* amounted to a forfeiture of their charters; and it certainly was worthy of remark, that whilst almost all the private banks were obliged to suspend their payments on account of the great depression which took place during the war, every one of the chartered banks continued to pay in specie all the time; and whilst other paper circulation was depressed from 15 to 25 per cent, the paper issues of the chartered banks were not depressed a farthing. The hon. member concluded by moving that "it be an instruction to the committee on the bill to provide for requiring from banks and banking establishments deposits (to be lodged in the Exchequer or other proper office) equal in amount to the amount of promissory notes payable on demand, issued by them respectively."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that this bill was of a mere temporary nature, and it would be a very inconvenient, not to say a very clumsy, mode of proceeding, to introduce into it measures of a permanent nature, and

of such great moment in themselves as those suggested by the hon. member.

After some remarks by other members, the House divided on Mr Hume's motion, when the numbers appeared,

For the motion, 9—Against it, 120, Majority 111.

The House then went into a committee on the bill.

Mr Brogden read the clause enacting that the Bank of England should every month make a return of all its 1*l*. and 2*l*. notes in circulation since the preceding month, and the amendment moved by Mr Maberly on Friday last, "and also an account of the amount of *all* the notes in circulation since the last day of the preceding month." On the motion for the amendment being put,

Mr Maberly repeated the arguments which he had advanced on Monday.

The amendment, after a brief discussion, was negatived.

On a succeeding clause being put,

Mr Hume observed, that in preceding acts, a clause had been introduced, which provided, that if any banker should refuse to pay gold for his notes on demand within a limited period, either three or seven days, a distress should be levied upon his property. This clause had been omitted in the last act. He would therefore propose an amendment, restoring the summary process.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer observed, that the purport of this bill was to replace the currency in the state it was in prior to the Bank Restriction act, at which period no clause like this existed. He thought the proposal liable to serious objection, and that it was almost impossible for country bankers to carry on business if it were adopted.

After much desultory conversation, the House divided, when the numbers were—For the clause, 19—Against it, 163—Majority, 144.

Mr Hume proposed a clause that, in future, all promissory notes of 5*l.* and upwards should be made payable at the places where they were issued.

Mr Huskisson said, that he intended to move a clause, that it should not be lawful to issue any note under 20*l.* unless payable at the place where it was issued—not restraining the banker from also making it payable at any other place which he might judge convenient.

After much conversation, the clause proposed by Mr Huskisson was read. It set forth, that, after the 5th Feb. 1829, every promissory note, for any sum under 20*l.* issued by any banker, should be made payable at the bank, or place from which the same was issued; and also at such other place or places as might be mentioned in such promissory note. The clause was agreed to.

Mr Monck moved a clause, providing that the holders of 1*l.* notes should, in the event of a banker's failure, have priority in proving their debts before all other creditors; and that they should be paid 20*s.* in the pound, before other creditors received anything.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer could not conceive any principle which could bear out the hon. member (Mr Monck) in wishing to give a preference to one set of creditors over another.

After a few words from Mr Monck, the clause was withdrawn.

The House then resumed.

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, Mr T. Wilson said, that before he proceeded with the motion of which he had given notice, he should wish to know from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether something had not occurred in the course of the day which rendered it necessary for him to make a communication to the House?

The Chancellor of the Exchequer.—In answer to the appeal which had

been made to him by the honourable member, he had to state that a communication had passed between the government and the Bank of England, for the purpose of ascertaining how far that body was disposed to give relief to the country under the circumstances of depression now existing in so many branches of its trade, commerce, and manufactures, by advancing money on the security of goods. In answer to that communication, the Bank had stated, that they would acquiesce in the proposition: and he had now only to add, that the Bank had at present under its consideration, the best means of giving effect to that intention, which it had adopted for the convenience of the public.

Mr Wilson understood that the communications between the government and the Bank related to an advance of 3,000,000*l.* of money by the latter; and that there was no disinclination on the part of the Bank to advance that sum, it being stipulated that ministers should save the Bank harmless, and should give it every facility till October next, for the issue of its notes. The arrangement conferred infinite honour upon the Bank, though he did not think that it conferred much upon the government. So convinced was he that the advance of 3,000,000*l.* would be sufficient to restore the confidence of the country, that he was not inclined to be fastidious as to the mode in which it was made, though he still adhered to his former opinion, that the proposed mode of advancing it through the Bank was not the most expedient. He felt that the Bank had nobly discharged its duty to the country; and as he did not wish to press hardly upon the government, he should now ask leave to withdraw the motion of which he had given notice.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that the intention of the Bank was to carry its advances to a sum not

exceeding 3,000,000*l.*—not, of course, binding itself to go to that precise extent, but fixing that as the utmost limit to which it would be justified in advancing its funds. It had been stated to the Bank by the government, that, in return for the advance, which it had undertaken to make to the distressed merchants, the government would, in the course of the present session, propose to parliament a measure for the paying off immediately a portion of the advances which the Bank had made to government. He had further to add, that it was the intention of his right honourable friend (Mr Huskisson,) to propose to parliament to accelerate the period within which the new law of merchant and factor was to be carried into execution, with a view of facilitating the objects which the House had in contemplation when it passed that measure.

Mr Pearse.—He was sanguine that not so much money would be wanted as the Bank had agreed to advance; and that confidence would be restored by the knowledge that something was going to be done for the relief of the commercial interests.

Mr Tierney.—On a former evening he had pressed upon the right hon. gentlemen the necessity of relieving the existing distress by an issue of Exchequer-bills. Such a step would, in his opinion, have been the most beneficial that could have been taken; but instead of adopting it, the right hon. gentlemen had brought forward another measure, which, though it was calculated to effect some good, was not calculated to effect that general good upon which everything at present depended,—namely, the restoration of public confidence. The present measure was a mere shift to do something, and nothing. The Bank, he admitted, had behaved kindly to the country, by putting itself into the gap, when nobody else would venture upon such a

leap. He could have wished not to have had occasion to oppose the ministers on the question of the currency, because he agreed with them in their leading principles; but he felt that he should disgrace himself for ever if he gave the slightest countenance to the scheme which they now patronised as a part of it.

Sir F. Burdett conceived that it made very little difference to the mercantile world whether the accommodation afforded to it came from the government or the Bank, provided that it was effectual. He could see no other reason upon earth for giving the accommodation in an indirect way by the cumbersome machinery of the Bank, instead of giving it in a direct way by the administration, than the declaration of the noble lord at the head of the Treasury, that nothing should induce him to consent to an issue of Exchequer-bills through commissioners. For his own part, he dissented entirely from all the measures which the House had hitherto adopted. He would not enter into a discussion of them all at present; but he could not agree with any man on either side of the house in believing that it was either necessary, expedient, or possible, to return with haste to a metallic currency. It was not possible to pay in cash, and support the monstrous establishments of the country.

After a few words from Mr Brougham, who concurred in what had fallen from Mr Tierney, and in much that had fallen from Sir F. Burdett,

Mr Canning said, that when the fit opportunity should occur, he would undertake to show, in the first place, that this measure was not the same as an issue of Exchequer-bills, and that many of the objections which applied to such an issue did not apply to it; and in the second place, that the reluctance of government to issue Exchequer-bills was not founded upon any idle respect to the words of a noble

lord, but upon a candid and anxious investigation of all the objections to which it was liable, and upon a sincere conviction that it was not their duty to consent to such a proposal.

Leave was then given to withdraw the motion.

Mr Ellice, referring to the acts of Parliament under which the issue of Exchequer-bills by the commissioners of public works was made, said, that reports under these acts from time to time found their way to the table of the House; but no general return had been made. The commissioners had advanced money, not only on account of public works, but for many other purposes connected with the trading interests to a certain extent. They had made advances to the owners of coals, and proprietors of mines, to persons engaged in fisheries; and upon one occasion they had made a large advance to a banking concern in the north, upon the ground that it was deeply connected with the coal trade. These facts, together with the understanding that a large sum, at the disposal of the commissioners, remained at present undisposed of, had induced him to think that the surplus might be applied to the relief of the manufacturing classes, with as great success as had attended the advances to the persons engaged in the coal trade. It appeared that government had found a means of throwing upon the Bank the task of supplying money for the necessities of the country. He should conclude by moving, that there be laid before the House "an account in detail of all advances of money and Exchequer-bills for public works for the employment of the poor, by the commissioners appointed under the acts 57 Geo. III. c. 34 and 124, and 3 Geo. IV. c. 86; specifying the purpose and time for which each loan was granted, the parties to whom granted, the nature of the

security, rate of interest, any repayments hitherto made, and the amount now due and outstanding, and when payable; also of Exchequer-bills undisposed of and still applicable under the provisions of the said acts."

Mr Tierney.—When I came down to the house this evening, for the purpose of being present at the discussion which was anticipated upon the motion of the honourable member (Mr. T. Wilson,) I certainly expected to have heard some reason assigned for the rejection of that method of alleviating our commercial difficulties, which had been pressed upon the attention of government, and which was so fully justified and supported by the precedent of 1793. The question is simply, whether there is at the present moment such an alarming crisis of embarrassment and want of confidence, as would justify a departure from all general principles, and warrant such an extraordinary application of the power of the government of the country as had proved so beneficial in the period of 1793? I have been told by the right hon. gentlemen (the Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the Chancellor of the Exchequer) that the distress of that period grew out of the acts of the government; and that, therefore, the distress of the present period was in no way to be compared to 1793, either as regarding the act of the government or the situation of individuals. But, sir, when gentlemen talk of the acts of the government producing peculiar circumstances, I ask what was there in the peculiar circumstances created by the government then, more than in those which have been created by the government now? It is the fashion, sir, both in this house and out of it, to talk of the extravagant speculations and delusive enterprises and egregious follies, which have reduced our mercantile classes to their present situation. Who are those who have led our merchants and the country into these follies?

Why, the ministers. Did not they tell us, in speeches from the Throne, and in speeches to this House, that our strength and our resources had become equal to any enterprise? Did not they assure us that our prosperity was of a nature so permanent as to be safe from the effect of any contingency, of any disaster? Was it not, the right hon. gentlemen,—In conjunction with the Bank of England—who gave rise to this opinion, that our power and our resources would be perpetual—and have they not, by the whole of their operations for the last two years, acted up to the very utmost extent of that opinion? Yet in how short a period have we run our race of prosperity! And were those who trusted to these professions of the government to be told, that because they have believed them, therefore the government won't assist them? Did not government lead the way in that race of profligacy and folly which has brought us to our present condition? Look but at the state of the holders of the 4 per cents—are they not deprived of the eighth of their income for ever, by this very excess of confidence in the government? And then let us go farther, and look at the holder of the new stock, which he possesses in place of what he held before. What is his situation? Why, he has lost still further 14 per cent upon even that reduction in the space of nine months; and what imprudence has he been guilty of? To be sure, it may be said, that the risk was their own; that they knew the hazard; that they had notice of being paid off, and might have taken advantage of such a permission. Undoubtedly that was true; but who was it produced the artificial rise in the funds, which gave the power to effect these changes? Was it not, I ask, solely the effect of the operations carried on in the stock market between the government and the Bank. I ask, what was the fate of those who held as trus-

tees under settlements, as executors or agents for the benefit of children or minors? They could not, if they were ever so desirous, have adopted the course pointed out to them, and they have therefore been sufferers to the extent I have mentioned, beyond all possibility of redress. If ever the commercial interests had fair claims upon the protection and support of government, I contend, sir, it is at the present moment, when they have been reduced by the acts of that government to that very state from which they seek relief. The right hon. gentleman, however, says, that they are not entitled to relief, because they might have foreseen what would happen. Did he foresee it? If he did, then the measures he adopted were the most culpable which have ever been attempted or executed by any men since the commencement of our history, and they were entitled to relief as an expiation for the errors of government. There never was an occasion when such a relief held out a better prospect of benefit to those who think their situation imperatively requires it. For I repeat what I said on a former occasion, that there is nothing in our situation to create dismay, even at present,—nothing to excite any alarm as to the future. We are in a condition of extensive pressure, of considerable embarrassment, of a terrific panic—but not of permanent difficulty. And what has created that panic? I say that it is confidence, and nothing but confidence, that we want. No man views his neighbour at present except with distrust; but let government interfere—let them show that they listen to the statements which have been made to them—that they are desirous to restore what they have assisted to destroy, and confidence will restore itself. What, however, does the government say?—"Oh, your distress is your own work—we cannot interfere; it would be establishing an

unwise principle, and lead to future applications of the same description : but we will tell you what you can do ; there is a gentleman lives not far from hence — we know he can accommodate you, and we will give you a letter of introduction, which we have no doubt will procure you a favourable reception." But what says the gentleman to whom the letter is directed?—" Oh, sir, it is quite a mistake ; really there is a great error on the part of your friends. We don't deal in such commodities. We never advance money on pledges. You must apply to your friends—they can assist you themselves." The unhappy loan-seeker returns with this answer to his former friends, the government. " Oh," say they, " indeed our friends the Bank of England, to whom we referred you, are very much mistaken. We have just been reading their charter—they are all wrong in this matter. They have the power, and they are exactly the men to suit you. As to what they say of us, we beg to tell you it is quite out of our line." And thus they have bandied about the unfortunate sufferers from one to the other, instead of coming promptly forward with that relief which becomes hourly more necessary. The right hon. gentleman (Mr Canning) says the government are a very improper body to grant the aid required. The Bank directors, on the contrary, maintain they are the only proper persons, and assert that the Bank may have, by their charter, a permissive, but certainly not an imperative power ; and during the whole course of my experience, I have certainly never known any such practice adopted by the Bank of England. The right honourable Secretary reported upon me in a manner which I cannot but acknowledge convincing, as far as argument went, proving from their charter that they had precisely the same power with respect to advances upon

merchandise as upon gold, silver, or bills. The Bank directors have contended that the assistance rendered by them will be much less effective than that which could be bestowed by government. In that I fully agree. By what means are the Bank-issues upon goods to reach all parts of the country ? What security have they against deception ? The Bank could do nothing of that kind ; all their power was the mere issuing of money to those who might apply for it under the pretence of possessing certain commodities not at this moment saleable ; but would that alone restore that confidence, the want of which was the source of the present misery ? I have experience for saying it will not. It has been tried already ; the government have embarked a sum in that adventure, and returned with a total loss. They have issued two millions of Exchequer-bills, not one sixpence of which has found its way into the pockets of those who really suffer, or promoted the sale of one farthing's worth of goods. Could any further advances produce any better effects in that way ? An ignorant man upon such subjects, like myself, possessing very limited means of judging, but looking to the effect of experience, would say decidedly, that they could not. But we have been told, that the directors were not without a hope, that the intelligent and hon. gentlemen of the country, would form themselves into commissioners, for the purpose of investigating the claims of the petitioners. Is that, too, in the charter of the Bank ? I should be glad to know who these commissioners are to be : I should be glad to see their names, and be able to ascertain whether they were selected with that peculiar regard to the integrity of life and honourable character, and knowledge of business, which so peculiarly distinguished the commissioners under the act of 1793.

This, I say, will be the consequence: improper persons will receive the money, and no good will be produced by the efforts of the Bank. I think that would not have been the case with an issue of Exchequer bills through the commissioners of the government. The banker, who will not have anything to do with my unsaleable goods, willingly obliges me, upon the faith of a convertible security like Exchequer-bills. He renews his discounts—he restores his advances—confidence revives naturally, from the effect of such appearances—and affairs, as they did in a similar manner in 1793, right themselves, without the necessity of any further operations. The fair trader, the person we mean to assist, thus receives a stimulus and an aid in his exertions. The hoards which have been locked up, are thus called out into service. The money which has lain dormant in the hands of the timid and the cautious, once more makes its appearance, and thus we reach, without any effort, and by the mere action of natural causes, that confidence, which is all, I say, that is wanted to restore us to our former state of activity and prosperity. It is not by the appointment of a mock commission, for I can call it by no other name, that we can hope to gain the benefits which arose from the commission of 1793. I may say, with a decided tone, benefits, for they are not a matter of rumour or hearsay, but of history. We have the report of their success upon the table, and by it we find that a sum of not more than two millions, advanced in Exchequer-bills, not only restored confidence, and relieved all distress, at a time as fearful as the present, but actually left in the pockets of the government a profit of 4000*l*. I still say, that if anything is to be done, it should be done in a solemn manner, as an act of the legislature. Does the House see, however, what will be the inevitable consequence

of this measure? You say men will be guarded against future imprudencies, by the difficulty which they have found in procuring relief from their distresses. But is an order on the Bank of England no immediate relief? Under other circumstances, they would have had to come before Parliament to have proved a case, to have made out a claim for relief, and Parliament would have had an opportunity of judging how far they might be entitled to it. Now, you tell them, all that is unnecessary—that the Bank of England alone have the power to make advances to their necessities, and that they are bound to comply with their demands. What is that but an encouragement to such speculations, when they know that on any future occasion they have but to apply for a check upon the Bank of England, upon the security of any goods they may possess? Does the House see, likewise, the extravagant power that is thus given to the Bank, and the strange effect such power must have, when the question of the renewal of their charter again comes under its consideration? I can easily conceive that there are many persons, to whom an issue of money will, at the present moment, be very convenient. But what I want to see is, a something that will remove distrust, restore confidence, and bring again into circulation those masses of money which must still be in the country. The measure which I recommend, belongs more to the politics of the right hon. gentleman than they do to mine. It is a measure of Mr Pitt. As to Mr Pitt, whatever differences may have existed between us—now that he is in his grave, they are forgotten. But this I will say of him, Mr Pitt was a great man—no man had a more sound mind, or was more capable of embracing a large, correct, and comprehensive view of the financial concerns of this country.

This was his measure—it was an useful and effectual measure at the time; and in recommending its adoption, I am more of a Pittite than the right hon. gentlemen who resist it. Yet, although I closely adhere to the course marked out by Mr Pitt, I am visited with the epithet of Jacobin, or philosopher, or some such name, intended to convey opprobrium. But what I am apprehensive of now, and against which I see no precaution, is, that much of the three millions now proposed to be issued by the Bank, on the security of goods, may get into the hands of rash speculators. I do not see how this measure is to operate; whether money is to be advanced on the security of goods alone, or whether it is to be advanced on other security. I would earnestly request the right hon. gentleman (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) to reconsider the measure; and the reconsideration of it will, I trust, yet lead him to its adoption.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that if he were satisfied that the interests of the country required it, he would readily forego his previously formed opinions—but the more consideration he bestowed upon the subject, the more was he convinced that the proposition of the right hon. gentleman (Mr Tierney) was not so well adapted, as the proposed advances by the Bank, to afford effectual relief to the distresses of the country. The right hon. gentleman said that government was called upon to take the particular course which he recommended, because the conduct which they had previously held, and the language which they had previously used, had contributed, in some degree at least, to produce that state of things to which it was now desirable to apply a remedy. He was not disposed to admit that the course which government had pursued, deserved all the imputations which the right hon. gentleman had thought fit to

cast upon it. The right hon. gentleman accused government of having been the original cause of the reduction of the rate of interest, which he said had led to excessive speculation. The right hon. gentleman ascribed the reduction of the 5 per cents to some previous mysterious combination between government and the Bank. Under what circumstances did government propose that measure? It was proposed under the sanction of a parliamentary committee. However, many of the acts for which the right hon. gentleman found fault with ministers, took place not before, but subsequent to, the reduction of the rate of interest. The passing of the 1*l*. and 2*l*. note act, and the arrangement of the half-pay and pensions, took place subsequently to that measure. It was therefore impossible to charge on those acts the reduction of the rate of interest. He must most positively deny that government endeavoured, by any process of combination with the Bank, to promote a state of things which should reduce the rate of interest. The right hon. gentleman said, that he thought it would be proper to follow the example of 1793. He did not think the case of 1793 was so precisely similar to the present case as the right hon. gentleman seemed to consider it. Did the right hon. gentleman attribute no importance to the remarkable changes which took place in the whole aspect of affairs on the continent and in this country, between the summer of 1792 and the spring of 1793? In the summer of 1792, the universal impression (which the government not only shared, but tended to produce) was, that if ever there was a period in our history when it was probable that the country would continue for years in a state of peace, that period had arrived. What happened? Within a few weeks after that impression prevailed, a war broke out in Europe under circumstances

quite unusual. France acquired an attitude which the wisest men (Mr Burke amongst the rest) had thought it incompatible with her situation to assume. In a short time the situation of France involved this country in hostilities, which, in their nature, exceeded any in which we had before been engaged. There was no question that the great prosperity which prevailed at the commencement of 1792 must sooner or later have experienced a revulsion, but the revulsion was occasioned by an extraneous cause, and not by the extravagant speculations of individuals. The distress of 1811 resulted from over-trading with South America, occasioned by the peculiar situation of hostilities. The circumstances of that case, therefore, were very different from those of the case now under consideration, and that diversity of circumstances was with him an additional reason for not following one bad example, and setting another. It was the duty of parliament to abstain from entering a vicious circle, from which they would never escape till they were strangled in its folds. If it were right to adopt the course recommended on the present occasion, then, upon every principle of fair dealing and justice, government ought to have done exactly the same thing when the landed interest was in a state of distress. Indeed a distinct proposition was made to the House, though not adopted, that government should adopt a similar measure to that of 1793. Ministers opposed the proposition, not only on the ground of the difficulty of carrying it into execution, but on principle. In another case, with regard to Ireland, a similar proposition was made to Parliament. It could not be said that the distress which existed in Ireland at that period was not equal to that which now prevailed in this country. Yet parliament did not think proper to adopt the remedy now proposed, because they

considered that it was likely to produce the evil of rendering government liable to be called upon on every occasion of distress, to act as bankers and pawnbrokers. To refer to another case; in 1823, a most important branch of our commerce, namely, the West India trade, was in a state of great distress. The grounds upon which government was then called upon to advance 5,000,000*l.* to assist the West India interest, were quite as strong as those upon which they were at present urged to advance a similar sum to the commercial interest; but parliament, conceiving that it would be setting a bad example, to be followed on some future occasion, rejected the proposition. If there was any one power which it was the duty of government to be cautious in assuming, it was that of advancing money in what might be considered cases of necessity. The temptations to abuse such a power were so great, that he should not like to be answerable for the consequences which might ensue, if parliament should be too facile in admitting the propriety of establishing it. Supposing that government had lent the 4,000,000*l.* which were asked for the relief of the agricultural interest in 1822, the 1,000,000*l.* for Ireland in 1823, the 5,000,000*l.* for the West India interest, in addition to the 5,000,000*l.* which were now called for, they would have advanced no less than 15,000,000*l.* in the course of four years. Would anybody say that such a course of proceeding was not dangerous, and that it was not a misfortune that the original precedent of 1793 existed? The right hon. gentleman (Mr Tierney) seemed to think that, in point of principle, there was no difference between the Bank lending money on goods, and the same thing being done by government. Government had not by law the power of lending money upon goods. A special law must therefore be pass-

ed, in order to give them that power. The Bank, however, already possessed the power; it was coeval with their original institution, and though never exercised, had; on every renewal of their charter, continued to form an inherent part of it. There was, therefore, in his opinion, the greatest distinction between the two cases. The absence of this power, on the part of the government, was an indication that it was not congenial with their functions; and its possession, on the part of the Bank, was a proof that, in the opinion of parliament, it might be wise and prudent, under particular circumstances, for that body to exercise it. With respect to the proposition of an issue of Exchequer-bills by government, supposing that government were to adopt that measure, would the Bank have nothing to do with it? Had they nothing to do with the measure of 1793? How would the bills be converted into money? The Bank would cash them. The right hon. gentleman had spoken of secrecy: when he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) came to discuss the subject of rendering assistance, he found persons who said that, when all experienced difficulty, there could be no discredit in going to the Bank of England, or anywhere, to procure loans of money on goods; for there was no credit asked; the parties offered goods as a pledge. He could not, for the life of him, conceive why persons should be afraid of being known, or require secrecy; they might go with a bold and confident face and ask for advances. Some persons had talked of commissioners being, on a former occasion, bound by an oath of secrecy: not one word of this was true. They took an oath of office indeed, but not an oath of secrecy. The argument as to secrecy had no validity whatsoever. The right hon. gentleman conceived that ministers were bound to take this course of giving relief, because the

measures taken at the commencement of the session, of which he was a supporter, had imposed upon them the duty of relieving the evil thereby created. But this proposition had been made previous to the session. Ministers threw cold water upon it, as they now did, because they conceived that the measures would lead to dangerous consequences; and were they to be reproached because they endeavoured to find out some better expedient? The right hon. gentleman complained that they had used no language of a cheering nature. When government did so, it was vehemently reproached for drawing a highly coloured picture of things. He (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) unquestionably concurred with the right hon. gentleman, with respect to his sentiments on the strength and vigour of the country. Although the leaves and branches of the tree had been shattered, its roots were firmly fixed, and they would shoot forth again with fresh beauty. If we took our measures with prudence and wisdom, we should succeed, at no distant period, in weathering the storm.

Mr Baring, at considerable length, supported the views of Mr Tierney.

Lord Althorp concurred with his Majesty's ministers in their measures for the alteration of the currency; but thought that they would have done better if they had set out by providing some relief for the immediate distress.

Mr T. Wilson thought that ministers were bound, in mere courtesy to Parliament, to assign some reason beyond their personal pleasure, why the plan now under discussion was preferred to that which had been recommended to them. For the measure which had been suggested, there was at least a precedent to allege, and he still believed that it would have turned out the most advantageous, as well as the most satisfactory to the country.

Mr Attwood.—Of the two modes

of giving relief, that by the course proposed, and that by an issue of Exchequer-bills, his opinion was in favour of the latter, as a course which had been tried and found successful. As to the propriety generally of giving the relief demanded, there could not be a moment's hesitation. The request came from the whole commercial body, and it asked nothing of government which it was not the province of government to perform; it asked only that the channels of communication—the means of dealing between man and man—should be opened.

Mr W. Whitmore believed that a fair arrangement of the currency of the country would do far more for the general benefit than the measure proposed; but, as relief was to be given, he thought it would be much better given by advances from the Bank than by an issue of Exchequer-bills. With reference to the conduct of ministers, he gave them credit for their steadiness, and thought that nothing but mischief could have resulted from vacillation.

Mr P. Moore said, that amongst other things, they were told that 25,000,000*l.* of money had been sent out of the country on foreign speculations. That was all fabulous. The 25,000,000*l.* was still in the country; and, what was more, would not go away.

Mr Ellice said, in reply, that the present state of things was entirely owing to the plans of ministers. He had hoped that the present conjuncture would have produced some wholesome disagreement between the government and the Bank; and he was sorry the Bank had not forced the government, as they might have done, to have abandoned their present course.

The motion was then agreed to.

On the order of the day for bringing up the report of the Promissory-notes bill, after a few remarks by Mr J.

Smith and Mr F. Palmer, reprobatory of the measure, the report was brought up; and after several amendments had been agreed to, the bill was ordered to be reprinted.

On Tuesday, March 7, the Chancellor of the Exchequer moved the third reading of the Promissory-notes bill.

Lord A. Hamilton said that he would support the measure, not because he thought it the best that might have been proposed, but because it would, imperfect as it was, tend in some degree to amend the defects of the present system of country banking.

Mr Hume moved a clause, requiring country bankers to make monthly returns of their notes in circulation, to be published at the discretion of the Treasury.

Mr Hobhouse seconded the motion.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer repeated his objections to the clause.

Mr Pearse said, that so long as bank notes were liable to be paid in gold, there was a sufficient restriction on the issues of bank paper.

Mr Alderman Heygate thought government might authorise an issue of notes on the security of the state; and such a circulation, if well arranged, might be better than gold.

The House then divided, when the numbers were—

For the amendment, 24; against it, 143.—Majority, 119.

Mr Hume then moved a clause, giving remedy by summary process against country bankers refusing to pay their notes in gold.

Mr J. Smith said, that a 1*l.* note might be protested for non-payment, as regularly as a bill of exchange; and the cost of that first step—which the banker would be liable to pay—would be 2*s.* This he thought was an ample security against the consequences of a refusal to pay in gold.

Colonel Johnson observed, that the

remedy of the hon. member was inefficient. The banker might be liable to pay 22s. for protest, but the labourer must pay it upon the spot—and where was he to get it?

The clause was negatived without a division.

The bill was then read the third time and passed.

In the House of Lords, Tuesday, March 14, the Marquis of Lansdowne presented a petition in favour of the bill of which the noble lord (Liverpool) was about to propose the second reading (the Promissory-notes bill) from the President, Vice-President, and members of the Chamber of Commerce in Manchester. An attempt had been made some time ago to introduce a small-paper currency into that town, but the exertions of the inhabitants had been able to overcome the efforts which had been made for that purpose. They had had the means of comparing the advantages of a metallic and paper currency; and the result which they had been enabled to arrive at, induced them to give a preference to a metallic currency over that of small notes.

The Earl of Liverpool, having moved the second reading of the Promissory-notes bill, observed, that it was not his intention to enter into any statements upon this occasion. It was the opinion of government, that the principle ought to be extended to Ireland and Scotland; and he now apprised their lordships that it was his intention to move on Friday next for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the present banking systems of Ireland and Scotland.

The Earl of Caernarvon and Earl of Lauderdale opposed the measure, which was supported by the Earl of Darnley; after which the bill was read a second time.

On Monday, April 10, the Marquis of Lansdowne rose to introduce a bill, of which the object was to make all notes payable at places different from that in which they were issued, also payable where issued. The bill was read a first time.

On Friday, April 14, the Marquis of Lansdowne, having moved the order of the day for the second reading of his bill, entitled an act for making Promissory-notes payable at the places where they are issued, said, that the discussion which had already taken place in the course of the present session upon another bill connected with this subject, had rendered them perfectly familiar with the grounds of his present proposition. He considered the measure important in two distinct points of view: first, with respect to the currency of the country, as it had existed in late years, and as, in a partial degree at least, it was likely to continue; and secondly, in connexion with a free competition between the different banking establishments. As to the first point, their lordships had frequently expressed their belief that a check founded on a metallic basis was the best check on the undue or excessive circulation of paper. Now he knew of no mode of bringing it into operation more speedily than that of giving every facility to persons residing in the neighbourhood of a bank, but above all to the poorer classes, on the first alarm as to the solidity of that bank, or the excessive amount of its issues, for bringing their notes to it for immediate payment; to which the public had a right, when they allowed them the privilege of making a paper-currency. If their lordships permitted one bank to make its notes payable at a distance, whilst another bank in the same town made its notes payable where they were issued, they would place the latter in unfair com-

petition with the former. It was quite plain that the practice now pursued only by some banks of making their notes payable at a distance, if not checked, must soon extend itself to all the others, and at last the whole country circulation being payable in different places from where it had been issued, the country would be left without that standard of metallic currency which their lordships had so often stated to be the best. In Ireland the want of a measure of this kind was peculiarly felt; for while the notes of one bank there circulated for their full amount, the notes of another in the same place were at a discount, owing to the causes which he had before mentioned.

Lord Farnham foresaw a great deal both of injustice and difficulty which would be occasioned by the way in which the bill was worded. It was difficult to define what was meant by the word "issue." In Ireland branch banks had been established, and the general circulation of the south of Ireland, and a great portion of the other parts of that kingdom, were altogether Bank of Ireland notes, payable in Dublin. Now, it would be a question whether the noble lord's measure extended to the re-issue of those from the branch banks; and if it did not, it might be defeated altogether, for the bank in Dublin could take in all their notes and re-issue them.

Lord Melville said, that so far as regarded Scotland, he was satisfied, that if they altered the arrangement of the banking-system there, they would occasion the withdrawal of the branch banks.

The Earl of Lauderdale pointed out various inconveniences and difficulties, which, he said, would arise in Ireland from the adoption of this measure. If this bill were to pass, it would be attended with the ruin of

the banks of Scotland, where it would not allow one to exist in the most populous places, except, perhaps, Glasgow, and one or two others.

The Earl of Liverpool thought the object contemplated by this bill a most desirable one, and he would, therefore, vote for its second reading.

The bill was then read a second time, and ordered to be committed on Tuesday se'nnight.

In the House of Commons, the same day, on the motion that the House resolve itself into a committee for the further considering the report of this bill,

Mr H. Gurney said, that the power of establishing joint-stock banks would give rise to a system of speculation, which would, in the end, be found highly injurious. It was said, that, by enlarging the number of partners, the banks would be on a more solid foundation, and the holders of their notes would be better secured. He would give the House one specimen of what they might expect from those "solid" joint-stock company banks. He had lately seen a prospectus for a national bank, put forward by two attorneys of Broad-street, named Wilks and Verbeke. These gentlemen stated that it was intended to have a national joint-stock company, with a capital of 1,000,000*l*. This, as they set forth, was to be a real, and not a nominal, capital, and was to be subscribed for in shares of 2*l*. each. Application had been made to some distinguished members of that House for their patronage of the scheme. One application was to one of his Majesty's ministers to become an honorary vice-president, and, as an inducement, it was stated to him, that to hold that situation it would not be necessary for him to take any shares. He was further informed that the duties of the station

would not require any, even the smallest portion of his time or attention. The duties would be all diligently performed by the directors and managers. This was, no doubt, one of the "solid" banks which the country might expect to see arise under the proposed system. He thought it would be better to wait till the bank charter should be determined, and then place the banking system of the country on a new footing.

The Speaker then left the chair, and the House went into a committee, when

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, in answer to an observation of Mr Pearse, that he did not conceive that the Bank of England would be placed in any jeopardy by the new modelling of the banking system, and putting it on a more extended scale than it was on at present. It was impossible that the Bank of England could carry on all the banking concerns of the country; then, if other banks must come into operation, why should the number of partners in them be limited to six? There was no magic in that particular number.

Mr Monk thought it would be advisable to postpone this measure till the Bank charter had expired, when it might have a fair trial.

Mr J. P. Grant contended, that there could not be any danger of the over-issues which were apprehended on the part of the country banks, because, so long as they were compelled to pay their notes in notes of the Bank of England, and those were payable in gold, there must be an effectual check upon too great an extension of credit in that way.

On the clause prohibiting discounts in London by the joint-stock companies,

Mr Hudson Gurney asked if it was intended, under this clause, that the members of these companies should

not employ their capital, if they chose, in the purchase of bills in London, through the means of their agents, or that they might not re-discount bills which they had already given cash for?

The Attorney-General said, that, as the law now stood, companies consisting of more than six persons were not allowed to employ their capital in London in the trade of bankers, and the clause now under consideration proposed to make no alteration in this respect.

Mr H. Drummond said, that it had long been the practice in Scotland, where the banking firms consisted of more than six partners, to draw bills upon London, and to have them discounted as often as might be necessary. Whether this was legal or not, he did not know, but he was sure that it could not be done in future under this clause.

Mr Pearse said, that any alteration would require great nicety and care, and in order to give time for properly considering it, he thought it would be better that the chairman should now report progress.

After some further observations, The Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed to postpone the clause under consideration, in order that the committee might get through the technical parts of the bill.

The consideration of this clause was postponed.

The other clauses were then agreed to, and after sundry amendments, the bill subsequently passed.

In the House of Lords, Tuesday, April 25, the Marquis of Lansdowne moved for the committee on the bill for enforcing the payment of bank notes at the place where issued.

The Earl of Liverpool, as far as he understood the principle of this bill, entirely concurred with it; but he

confessed that he found many objections to the application of this principle at present. It was, therefore, well worth the consideration of the noble lord who had introduced this measure, and the House, whether it would be proper to proceed with it at present. A very important branch of the subject to which the present bill related, had been referred to the consideration of a committee. He meant the question relative to the currency of Scotland and Ireland. Much evidence had been given before that committee, which it would be important for their lordships to consider, when the report should be laid on the table. For this reason, he was of opinion that it would be better to postpone the present bill until after the inquiry now going on was completed.

The Marquis of Lansdowne.—After the declaration by the noble earl of his approval of the principle of the bill, and of his desire to see it in operation, the difference of time to be gained by forwarding it this session was not so important, as the assistance which he might hope to obtain from the noble earl in carrying into full effect a measure which he conceived to be essential to the establishment of a sound banking system, for without it that system could not operate with security and facility. He should, therefore, agree to a motion for postponing the committee on the bill to this day three months.

After some observations, this suggestion was agreed to, and the bill, of course, dropped for the session.

On Friday, May 5th, the Earl of Liverpool, on moving the order of the day for the consideration of the amendments made by the Commons in the Bank Charter bill, observed that the amendments were merely verbal, with the exception of one or two, which were essential to the success of the measure. In the other House, there

were many persons connected with banking, and consequently more capable of forming an opinion as to what was wanting to render the bill efficient, than he or any other of their lordships were likely to be. These gentlemen felt it to be necessary, with a view to the establishment of joint-stock companies in the country, that such companies should be allowed to have an agent for paying their bills in London. Bills drawn payable at sight or on demand might thus be paid in London. To accomplish that purpose, an agent in the metropolis was necessary. He was given to understand, that the introduction of a clause authorising joint-stock companies to appoint agents would remove a great obstacle to the working of the bill. There was another amendment of importance. When the bill was before that House, a good deal had been said on the propriety of the Bank of England establishing branch banks, and the noble marquis (Lansdowne) had in particular insisted on the necessity of obliging banking establishments to pay at the places where their notes might be issued. Now, a clause had been introduced by the Commons, authorising the Bank of England to establish branch banks, and providing that their notes should be payable at the branches where issued, as well as in London. At the time the bill was sent to the other House, it was not known whether the Bank of England would establish branch banks or not. The subject, however, had since been referred by the directors to the consideration of their own body, and had undergone a most patient and laborious investigation. He was authorised to say that the principle had been completely adopted, and that the Bank had decided to establish branch banks. With regard to the power of granting charters to companies, that power would be acquired in due course of law. He

had, however, no reason to despair of obtaining from the Crown, even before the arrival of the period to which he had alluded, the power of granting charters to joint-stock companies. In the meantime, he could state, that joint-stock companies were forming in this country by existing banking establishments, most respectable in themselves, uniting together. These establishments would by their union form joint-stock companies, though without charters; and from this fact their lordships would be convinced that the bill before them was not likely to prove a dead letter. He concluded by moving that the amendments of the Commons be agreed to.

The amendments were then agreed to.

(We have omitted from our previous history of Parliamentary proceedings regarding the currency, such as related to the small notes in Scotland and Ireland, in order, such was the intense interest these had excited, particularly in Scotland, to present them to our readers in a distinct form.)

In the House of Commons, Thursday, March 16, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that after the ample discussions which the subjects of banking and promissory notes had undergone, the more he had applied his attention to them, the more he had become persuaded that the opponents of the new regulations were without any grounds whereon they could rely for refusing to adopt them in the case of Scotland. There was a material difference between the cases of Ireland and Scotland, and it was necessary to take all circumstances into consideration before they proceeded to legislate. It appeared to him, therefore, that the most prudent and effectual mode for all parties would be to allow a full, free, and unreserved consideration to

be given to the subject before a select committee. He agreed that they ought not to charge those who opposed the application of the new measures to Scotland with any unfairness in their purposes or their arguments, until they had first of all heard and endeavoured to convince them: but he must be allowed to remark, that Parliament, in dealing with this subject first of all had begun with this very case of Scotland; for in 1765, it had restrained the issues of small notes, which were then in circulation in that country, as a medium wholly incompatible with the interests of those into whose hands it was likely to go. In Ireland, there appeared to be no such strong disinclination to the measure contemplated.—He should at present abstain from all further remark, and simply move “that a select committee be appointed to inquire into the state of the circulation in promissory notes, under the value of 5*l.*, in Scotland and Ireland, and to report their observations and opinion thereupon to the House, with reference to the expediency of making any alteration of the laws now in force relating thereto.”

Mr H. Gurney thought that it would be much safer to abstain from this inquiry, which could only add to the ferment lately experienced and still lingering in the public mind. At least let them forbear from interfering with Scotland until they had tried the effect of the measure on England.

Mr Keith Douglas said, that Parliament ought to show some deference for the petitions which were coming up from all parts of Scotland in opposition to the proposed alteration of their currency. During the whole period of the Scotch banking system, nothing had occurred which would warrant the proposed interference. The state of things which had arisen in England, was occasioned in part by

the insolvency of some of the smaller bankers ; but not so in Scotland, where the people were perfectly satisfied with the solvency of their bankers, and the accommodation which they afforded. In England the evils to be corrected were first, the too great extent of the small bank note system ; and the remedy to be applied was, the suppression of all notes under 5*l.* value. But, then, it was said, that for uniformity sake, the same system must be extended to Ireland and Scotland, and particularly in the case of the latter ; for if the small note circulation were upheld there, it must necessarily interfere with and injuriously affect the British gold currency, by being mixed up with it. Now he denied that this could ever take place in the manner apprehended ; nobody in England would countenance the circulation of Scottish notes in preference to their own gold coin.

Mr W. Dundas said, that the British Parliament could not be expected to take the mere words of the Scotch members upon such a question ; it was therefore reasonable to call for a committee, where alone the requisite proof could be furnished. He was attached to the present system, and therefore courted rather than feared inquiry.

Mr M. Fitzgerald eulogised the present banking system in Ireland, where there were branches of the national bank and joint-stock bankers, properly maintaining the circulating medium of the country generally.

Sir Charles Forbes said that he saw no necessity for this committee—it was uncalled for and unnecessary ; but he would vote for it in compliment to Scotland.

After some further conversation, the

motion was agreed to without a division.

In the House of Lords, Friday, March 17, on the motion of the Earl of Liverpool, a select committee was appointed to inquire into the circulation of promissory notes under the value of 5*l.* in Scotland and Ireland. The noble earl then moved, that the several petitions which had been presented to the house on the subject of the banking system in Scotland and Ireland, be referred to the said committee.

Earl Grosvenor then rose. He considered it very extraordinary, that after all the information which the noble earl must have obtained respecting the measure, he should still think it necessary to refer the subject to a committee. He believed that, had it not been for the publication of the *Letters of Malachi Malagrowther*,* the noble earl would never have thought of the appointment of a committee.

The Earl of Liverpool requested their lordships to recollect for a moment how the question stood. One part of the united kingdom, namely, Scotland, had manifested a very general, he might say a universal, objection to the principle of the bill, and their lordships' table was covered with petitions against it from that country. What, then, was the most decorous course which he could adopt, his opinion still remaining unaltered, notwithstanding these petitions ? What else but to investigate the facts stated by the petitioners, and then let the House say whether the measure ought to be extended to Scotland or not ?

The Earl of Aberdeen conceived that after the bill for prohibiting the circulation of promissory notes of

* These letters were understood to be the production of Sir Walter Scott, Bart. ; and served, in no small degree, to inflame the public feeling of Scotland against extending the measure for suppression of small notes to that country.

small value had passed, the country had returned to the state in which it was before the Bank Restriction act. Before that period the circulation of Scotland was the same as now. No evil had been felt in Scotland from the state of the circulation, and there had never been any complaint of it. The people of Scotland were perfectly satisfied with the present state of their banking system, and their objection to any interference with it was universal. Lord Melville said, that a great deal of misapprehension prevailed in Scotland respecting the proposed measure. It was true that the objection to extending the prohibition to that country was very general, but it was at the same time perfectly well known that many well-informed persons in that country differed in opinion on that subject.

The Earl of Limerick said, that a remedy should not be applied where no disease existed. The very agitation of the subject had done great mischief in Ireland. The measure, as applied to Ireland and Scotland, must be differently viewed. In Scotland not a sovereign was to be seen; but in Ireland the circulation stood on what was admitted to be a solid foundation, as the paper money was convertible on demand into gold.

The earl of Landerdale observed that the opinion of the people of Scotland was unanimous against the measure.—It seemed to be supposed that the Scotch bankers had a particular advantage in the system that existed in that country. Unquestionably men would not employ their capital in trade but with a view of deriving profit from it. It was clear, however, that the Scotch bankers would have more profit if they were to follow the English mode of doing business, and give no interest to their customers: these bankers would, therefore, have an interest in the alteration proposed by the noble earl. If, therefore, they joined

in the petitions, it must be from a conviction of the advantage of the system to the country. It was the best possible system for a poor people.

The Earl of Liverpool was astonished at the singular nature of the argument of a noble earl (Limerick); for if it was true that Scotland had been benefited by her banking system, surely the same thing could not be said of Ireland? It was said by the Scotch, "Keep your English system, and let us have ours, under which we have so long flourished; or if you will assimilate, why not adopt the Scotch system for England?" But the real question was, could Scotland, in commercial concerns, do without England? (hear, hear.) When distress occurred, would the Scotch merchants find relief without coming to the Bank of England? Then, indeed, let them have their own system.

After a few words from Lord Ellenborough, the motion was agreed to.

On Friday, May 26th, the report of the committee appointed to inquire into the expediency of altering the state of the currency in Scotland and Ireland having been laid on the table,

The Earl of Caernarvon complained that the measures brought forward by government on this subject with respect to England, had been passed without any inquiry. In the case of Scotland and Ireland, inquiry had been instituted, and what was the result? Did it bear out the principles of the noble earl? Quite the reverse: and he was satisfied that if inquiry had taken place into their expediency, as regarded this country also, the result would have been the same.

The Earl of Liverpool.—The committee had reported that it was inexpedient to adopt measures, this session, with regard to Scotland and Ireland, on account of circumstances peculiar to those countries. If, however, a paper circulation could be safely

maintained in Scotland and Ireland, it was because they had a metallic circulation in England. The safety of a small-note circulation in those countries grew out of the state of the currency in England, which governed the exchanges in every part of the British empire.

In the House of Commons on the same day, on the report of the Select Committee on the Banking System of Scotland being brought up,

Mr Tierney rose :—The House will bear in mind, that in the King's Speech we were desired to take such steps as would place the currency of the country on a more solid and permanent footing ; measures were in consequence brought forward by ministers. The remedy proposed for the aid of our trading was—to get rid, within a limited period, of all the one and two-pound notes now and then in circulation. It was also mentioned, that that by itself would not be a sufficient remedy ; and it was therefore suggested that, with the concurrence of the Bank of England, branches of that establishment should be formed in other parts of the kingdom ; and further, that it should part with a portion of its exclusive privilege, and that a law should be passed enabling more than six persons to join in speculations of the kind. Nothing could equal the vigour with which Lord Liverpool set out ; not a moment was to be lost, and the haste was so extreme, that all was to be done without the slightest inquiry. The next step was, the bringing in a bill to prevent the issue of one and two-pound notes, after some day in April, 1829, three years from the time when the proposition was made. Upon that measure a great variety of opinions prevailed : for my own part, I conceived that ministers were acting upon a sound system, and I therefore gave them all the support in my

power. All went on smoothly until it was suggested, that an exception should be made respecting the issue of one and two-pound notes in favour of the Bank of England. It could not be listened to for a moment : the minds of ministers were made up ; their objections were irresistible ; yet within one little week they gave way. This was the first indication that their valour was beginning to ooze out. Nevertheless, I continued to give them my support ; and if the directors of the Bank of England meant, really, and *bona fide*, only to issue such a number of notes as would supply the deficiency that might be occasioned by the sudden abridgement of the circulation of country banks, there would not have been much to object to. But I was satisfied that this would not be the case ; for the principle always uppermost in their minds has been pushing out their paper to the very utmost extent. But this suggestion having been adopted, one great advantage of the system has been done away. We went on with the bill extremely well, until we came to Scotland. I really believe, that since the Rebellion of 1745, such a combustion has not been produced in that country as was raised the moment that it was known that some plan was projected for altering the paper system there. Nothing, I must own, ever surprised me more than what I myself witnessed. When the measure of restriction was first introduced, all the members for Scotland, with one voice, hailed it as wise, prudent, and beneficial : out of the whole 45, I believe there was but a single exception (Mr Hume), who voted against it. Nothing could equal the zeal of the Scotch gentlemen in supporting it, excepting, perhaps, the firmness, I had almost said the menace, with which they afterwards united to resist it. They found it was not relished in the north ; and

when it came home to their own doors, —when they discovered that the proposed change in the currency of Scotland would put them and their seats in jeopardy, they turned round without the slightest hesitation, forgot or disregarded all that they had before said or done, and joined their voices to the general cry against the alteration. The effect was magical—such as he, a plain man, had no powers of eloquence to describe. The Great Unknown's well-known picture of a "gathering"—an arrangement in which, by the exertions of a single man, speeding from house to house with a signal, a whole clan is mustered, and every individual is at his post in half an hour—is the only recorded process, the effect of which seems at all to approach it. Petitions were poured in from all parts of Scotland, and a greater hubbub was excited than I can recollect for many, many years. Nevertheless, I did hope that ministers were acting upon a matured and settled system; and one of my complaints is, that I have been disappointed. Is there any man who hears me, who is not astonished, after all that has been said and done, to find, that the last act of nearly the last day of the session, has been to produce a report, the substance of which is to recognise the right of allowing the existence in Scotland of a principle totally different from that which governs us here? It seems to have been thought that the respectability of the character of the Scotch bankers, their prudent management, and their tried integrity, covered them with a degree of sanctity which rendered it almost impiety to touch them. In England, however, without investigation, that has been done at once, by the strong arm of the law. When we came to deal with Scotland, I was told that we were all wrong in principle—that what was to be law for one country ought not to

be law for another—that she had a right to her paper currency, and might maintain it even by dint of menace and intimidation. The ground on which the exception of Scotland rests, is this: That she has acted for a long series of years on a system of excluding the precious metals; that no inconvenience has resulted from this exclusion; on the contrary, that her manufactures and commerce have been greatly benefited by it. I hope I state it fairly, and I am sure I mean to do so. As to the long continuance of the system, I do not think that is any very powerful argument. Scotland is no longer what Scotland was. What it might be proper to connive at in a poor and rising country, is not to be borne when that country has advanced to wealth and power equal, or nearly equal, to our own. Formerly, every assistance that could be given to Scotland was important; but now (and I say it with heartfelt satisfaction) I do not know a country in the world, which, in the same number of years, not more than thirty, has made such rapid and vigorous strides towards wealth and prosperity. I always feel everything that belongs to the prosperity of Scotland, as part of the prosperity of England; but, then, I hope the Scotch gentlemen will allow that danger to England ought at least to meet with sympathy in Scotland. This is not too much to ask, even from the natives of the North. What I maintain is this,—that what might be necessary to Scotland formerly, is not necessary now. She has not only enjoyed the benefit of the banking system, which I will explain a little by and by, but other advantages, which have showered into her lap wealth in greater quantities, and in a shorter time, than any other country ever experienced; I allude to the wealth poured into Scotland from India within the last thirty years. Let

me ask whether the system of cash credits or of banking could have done that for Scotland which India has accomplished for her? I speak it highly to their honour; but every Scotch gentleman who went to India, on his return felt that laudable affection for his own country which induced him to place there the property he had realized. The system of banking in Scotland is undoubtedly one of extreme profit, and for this reason—the precious metals being excluded, paper only is issued and circulated; while the whole specie capital of the bankers is employed in London, obtaining at least the ordinary rate of interest; therefore, all that is done in Scotland in the way of banking, is sheer gain. No doubt, if I were a Scotch banker, I should be very anxious to support that which was to me such an abundant source of wealth; and I do not affect to blame them. The system of paper circulation originates in cash credits. Cash credits, I may explain thus: If a man be beginning the world as a tradesman, it must naturally be thought a great advantage for him to have at some banker's, we will say 100*l.*, which he could apply when he wanted it. But there is a second advantage in the system:—the tradesman may at any time pay back any part of the sum thus advanced to him, and the interest charged for the remainder which he retains in his hands, is directly reduced. In order to accomplish this object, and to keep up this system, the exclusion of all coin became necessary; that is the principle on which it is founded. I have no right to find fault with this system, but I do say, that in countenancing Scotland by supporting it, ministers are acting more directly in the teeth of their own principle, than I should have supposed it possible even for them to do. Scotland boasts that she has devised these cash credits, the effect of which

is altogether to exclude gold from circulation. If the evidence be correct, she has most effectually succeeded; for it shows that these cash credits amount to not less than six millions; some witnesses state it at seven or eight millions, but it may be very fairly taken at six. The other parts of banking in Scotland are the same as in England, excepting that those who make deposits are allowed in the former some greater advantages: one is, that they give 4 per cent to those who lodge money with them, and charge 5 per cent for the advances they make. No doubt this system must be a great advantage to those who reside in Scotland, but give me leave to ask, whether there is any reason why those who reside in Scotland should possess it? While thus an extravagant advantage is given to Scotland, the rest of the country are severe losers. As I before remarked, this might be all very well while Scotland was a poor country; but Scotland is now rich and powerful, and why is a gentleman of that country of 2000*l.* a-year, to possess these advantages, and to secure 4 per cent by cash credits, to his dependents and connexions in all their ramifications, to the exclusion and disadvantage of England? I can see no reason for it, and I deny that in England the same may not be done; indeed, I was surprised to find, what I did not know until this day, that cash credits do exist in some of the most respectable country banks in England. I am told that nothing is now more usual. Can any man then assign a single reason why Scotland is to be so peculiarly favoured? This cannot be called acting on a system; it may be right, or it may be wrong; but no man can deny that Lord Liverpool is blowing hot and cold, when he pretends to put the currency of the empire on a solid and se-

cure basis, and yet does all in his power to make that basis, in Scotland, unsolid and insecure. I dare say, when the report comes to be read, it will be found fairly drawn up; but I will venture to say, that it contains materials for a manifesto in favour of a paper currency, from one end of the kingdom to the other. No more effectual method can be taken than by the publication of all the evidence. Ministers lay it down for a rule that there is nothing so good as gold; but, read the report, and the world will be satisfied that there is nothing so good as paper. Paper against gold, and gold against paper, will flourish on hundreds of title-pages, and happy the man who never reads a line further. After being driven and goaded into a metallic currency in fact, we are to be told at last in words that we ought, for all purposes of profit and convenience, to prefer paper. And then I ask, whether, if the Bank of England does not continue to issue small notes, while such notes are allowed to be freely issued in Scotland, we can go on for two years together? I hold it to be utterly impossible that we can; and the result will be, not that Scotland shall be assimilated to England, but that England shall be assimilated to Scotland. The forty-five gentlemen of the north will after this find a great number of coadjutors. The English country gentlemen will say, "Why do you refuse to us the same advantages which you allow to the gentlemen of Scotland?"—and what answer can we give to that? "You see," they will say, "how Scotland is flourishing under the small note system, and why should we not also have the benefit of small notes?" It will be very difficult to give a sound and rational answer to such expostulations. And then, suppose a war should arise, in what situation shall we then be found? The consequence

will be, that having done nothing in the last years of peace for the arrangement of our currency on a solid and secure foundation, we shall be compelled to engage in the war with our circulation in the utmost confusion; and foreigners will look with contempt on our financial knowledge and regulations; for foreigners understand the state of our currency, perhaps, in some instances, better than we do ourselves. Look at the condition of France in this particular—everything perfectly regular—the gold currency plentiful without excess—nothing doubtful—the Bank accounts submitted to the public view without the least disguise; and all this while we are involved in a series of vacillations, doubts, and difficulties. It cannot be otherwise. Lord Liverpool ought to have known his grounds completely before he proposed any measures; and having once taken his ground, he ought to have held it firmly. Give me the minister who will never introduce his measures rashly; and when he has once introduced them, will stand by them without flinching. Here nothing was settled in time with the Bank, and a great deal of squabbling took place, till, at last, it was agreed upon that there should be *one* branch bank at Gloucester. Then came the plan for giving an additional number of partners to the country banks. But here again occurs another instance of negligence and carelessness; for the law which passed on this subject contains a proviso, that none of the notes or bills of the country banks below 50*l.* shall be payable in London—a regulation which, if carried into strict effect, would render the permission to form these joint-stock companies perfectly nugatory. Why did not Lord Liverpool and the bankers settle this matter before the measure was proposed to Parliament? After the act was a month old, several meetings

were held, and several discussions took place, upon which it was at length discovered that the provision in question might be evaded. So that, after the act had passed, one of the principal objects of the minister was to show how it might be evaded. The law, it was found, could never answer, unless some mode of evading it could be discovered; and the whole utility of the law was grounded upon this evasion. See, then, the result of this grand system; and observe how it applies in the different portions of the empire. In the course of three years England is to have a metallic currency, and no small notes: Scotland is to have her small notes, and of course, no metallic currency. I am now speaking of myself, and for myself. I am merely stating my own opinion. I attack none for the present. I do not mean at this time to impute blame to any particular individual. But I thought the ministry were acting upon one entire, sound, and solid system, which would apply to every portion of the empire. I now find that I was wrong. After having boldly come down to Parliament with a particular measure on one of the most important subjects that could occupy the attention of Parliament—they yielded, wavered, and vacillated, and contrived to fritter away and almost destroy their own system. Owing to the clamour made by the Scotch, the ministers thought it not inconsistent in them to change their mode of proceeding. All previous inquiry was denied in the case of England; but a committee of inquiry was agreed to as far as regarded Scotland. I wish the measure had been brought forward with less rashness; and had been more firmly followed up. But *liberavi animam meam*.

Mr Peel.—I cannot help being very much surprised that the right

hon. gentleman should have thought it right to make so severe a speech founded upon a Report which is not yet on the table of the House. We of the committee did most anxiously apply ourselves to the subject. We have not been sparing either of our exertions or our time; and sat so late, that we had barely an opportunity to consider and make up our Report before the termination of the session. This, I will say, that I never sat upon a committee where every one appeared more anxious to do his duty. The right hon. gentleman says, that we declared our resolution to adopt and adhere to a general system applicable to all parts of the empire; and that we have abandoned that system—I deny both propositions. There has been no declaration by the ministers, that the system must necessarily be extended to Scotland. Let it be considered, that when the system comes into operation with respect to England, it will be the very same system which existed here for a long time up to the year 1797. For a very long period before 1797, England had, practically, a metallic currency; and for twenty years before that time, the law was, that no bank notes should circulate under the value of 5*l*. But, during the whole of that period, concurrently with the metallic circulation of England, the small notes circulated in Scotland. In 1810, as is well known, a committee was appointed to examine into the state of the currency, and the conclusion to which that committee came, was, that cash payments ought to be resumed within two years from that period; but it was never said, nor contemplated, that the circulation of small notes in Scotland ought to be abolished. Another committee was appointed in 1819; but it intimated no condemnation of the small notes in Scotland. And, observe, this was

no *laches*—no negligence in us, for we had evidence before us, taken with reference to the circulation of small notes in Scotland. But we did not then think it essential to our principle, that its operations should be extended to Scotland. So, in the measures in contemplation in 1823-4, it was never mentioned that any alteration ought to be made in the currency of Scotland. Why, then, does the right hon. gentleman say, that we had declared that our system ought necessarily to be extended to Scotland? I have no hesitation in stating, that my own feeling was, that it should be so extended. But then, as we had no previous inquiry directed to the consideration of the state of the currency of Scotland, we said, “by all means let us have a previous inquiry.” The right hon. gentleman says, that my Lord Liverpool ought to have made up his mind on the subject before he came down to parliament to propose this system for the adoption of the legislature. Why, it is long since my Lord Liverpool has made up his mind on the subject. Even while Mr Vansittart was Chancellor of the Exchequer, he had contemplated the plan of taking securities from the country banks for their issues. The inquiry proceeded on the advice given by the right hon. gentleman in 1819. Why, then, in that instance, we acted on the advice of the right hon. gentleman, and yet the right hon. gentleman now objects to the very course which he himself had formerly so strongly recommended. I now come to the consideration of the conclusions to which the committee have come, as stated in their report; and as to these, I say, let the House suspend their judgment until they have an opportunity of ascertaining what they are, and upon what evidence they are founded. This is the first committee; be it remember-

ed, which has been appointed for the exclusive purpose of considering the state of the Scotch currency. I freely confess, that if we had suffered our opinions to be determined merely by general reasoning, the committee would most probably have reported that the system of metallic currency ought to be extended to Scotland. But, when I heard and considered the evidence, I have no hesitation in admitting, that my opinion was, to a certain degree, changed; and I thought, upon the whole, that, under existing circumstances, a further trial should be made, whether a small note currency could exist in Scotland, in conjunction with a metallic currency in England. We go no further than to say, that the experiment ought to be tried; but whether, under the very altered circumstances of Scotland, it will succeed, is quite another question. The right hon. gentleman himself, says, that the circumstances of Scotland are now changed. Why, that is just what we say. But still, as the evidence of past experience was in favour of the hypothesis of those who imagined that no inconvenience would arise from the existence of a metallic currency in the one country, and a paper one in the other, we thought it prudent to recommend that the experiment should still be tried. Now, upon the view of the case, as we have it under our eyes at this moment, is it expedient to make any alteration in the currency of Scotland, without some further trial? The universal impression in that country is, that they ought to be allowed to continue their present banking system, and their issues of small notes. If I had been clearly of opinion, that at this moment it would be for the best interests of the empire at large that the metallic currency should be introduced into Scotland at the same time at which it was established in Eng-

land, I should have disregarded that impression, and the clamours that resulted from it. But then, having gone into an inquiry, and the evidence being contrary to my first impressions, I thought myself, for the present, bound by that evidence. Then, as to the country banks of England, as compared with the Scottish banks, I certainly have no hesitation in saying, that the country bankers of England are, as a body, among the most respectable classes of the community. But I say, that it is infinitely better for the bankers themselves, that a state of things should be abolished, which enables a few so to misconduct themselves, as to taint the whole body with suspicion. Then look at the state of the returns before Parliament, with reference to the solvency and solidity of the Scotch banks, as compared with those of England since 1816. Since that period, there appears to have been one Scotch bank, which sued out a sequestration under the Scotch bankrupt laws. During the same period, the number of English country banks, against whom commissions of bankruptcy have been sued out, is 158. There had been no evidence to show that the two systems of currency would necessarily derange each other's operation. The great objection to a system of paper currency was, that though it did well enough for fair weather, it was not fitted for times of panic and danger. The answer of Scotland was, that for a hundred years, during which their present system had existed, no practical evils had occurred in that country in consequence of the state of the currency. During that period the people of Scotland had had a change of dynasty, and undergone the misfortunes arising from two rebellions. When mercantile credit had been convulsed in England, it had remained unshaken in Scotland. These

were surely strong reasons for leaving the system untouched, at least for the present. But the chief ground on which its defence rested was the system of cash credits. The business of Scotch banking is conducted by about 30 establishments. There are three charter banks, and twenty-seven or twenty-eight others, with branches extending into the remotest parts of the country. Though these branches might not at their first institution pay the expenses attendant upon their establishment, yet, by the improvements they introduced into trade and agriculture, they, generally, soon became profitable. The witnesses who were examined before the committee agreed in stating, that it was their undoubted conviction that if the circulation of notes below L.5 was abolished, there would be no longer any motive for establishing these branch banks in the distant and least improved parts of the country. What object, for example, could a banker have in incurring the expense of instituting a branch of his establishment in the Highlands, if he was restricted from issuing small notes? Certainly he could have none, as that was the principal source of profit from which he expected remuneration. During the inquiry, the committee had deemed it necessary to obtain a total return of the paper circulation of Scotland, for the purpose of comparing it with that of England. In 1819, when the committee on the resumption of cash payments was sitting, it was calculated that the total amount of circulation in this country was 40 millions. The circulation of the Bank of England was ascertained by the returns it had made to Parliament. Let the House now attend to the comparison of the proportion between the total amount of the currency of this country, and that part of it which consisted of notes below L.5. The

latter, certainly, is not much more than a sixth—perhaps only a tenth. But how stands the proportion in Scotland, between the total amount of the circulation and the small notes? The total amount of the paper currency of Scotland is L.3,300,000, and there is scarcely any gold. It appears, that of the whole, upwards of two millions consist of notes below L.5. In the case of Scotland, therefore, the proportion of small notes is two-thirds of the whole circulation. I am afraid that it is impossible to pass a law doing away at once with two-thirds of the circulation of Scotland. I feel very sorry that the report has not met with the approbation of the right hon. gentleman; (Mr Tierney;) but I declare that, either as a minister or as a member of this House, I have never done an act with which I am more satisfied than the presentation of that report.

Mr Abercrombie said, that he went into the committee with a full persuasion of the extreme absurdity of having one set of principles regarding the currency for England, and another for Scotland, and he had heard nothing in the course of the inquiry that had altered his opinion. Every position in the report was in favour of the general principles the House had adopted for this country. If the currency of Scotland were left in its present state, there would be an excessive issue of paper in that country, and the whole burden of keeping up the supply of gold would be cast on the bankers of England. If the same indulgence had been extended to them that the Scotch bankers had received, a very different result would have ensued. A striking fallacy in the speech of the right hon. gentleman (Mr Peel) was, that he said there had been no distress at any time during the last century in Scotland. No mistake could be greater. There had

been a recurrence of public calamities quite as often as in this country. The solidity of the Scotch banks, in consequence of the great number of partners in them, was a reason why, above all others, they ought to be put under restraint as to the issue of their notes. By dividing the responsibility among so many individuals, the temptation to over-issue was greatly increased. The people of Scotland had suffered as much as any people from excess of paper. Prices had been raised, and the labourer was mulcted of his wages by the over-issues of the Scotch banks. Another objection he had to the report was, that it recommended a measure which had never before been heard of—the exclusion of Scotch notes from circulation in England; and that by a penalty against bringing them over an imaginary boundary. If such a law were passed, it would be the most vicious, odious, and detestable in principle, that had ever received the sanction of Parliament. The only offence to which this new crime was analogous was that of smuggling. The smuggler at least cheated the Exchequer; but the introducer of a Scotch note would be guilty of fraud against nobody.

Mr J. P. Grant denied that it was at all necessary, either from past experience or present emergency, that the currency of Scotland should be on a similar footing with that of England. The result of the inquiry convinced him, that it would be both unjust and injurious to interfere with a system which was found to work so well, and had given so much satisfaction.

Sir M. W. Ridley demanded an inquiry on the part of the country bankers, and he was confident, if it was granted, that it would be found no well-conducted bank in England was different from any well-conducted

bank in Scotland. One thing was certain, that nothing could be done to prevent the paper of Scotland from passing farther than the bounds of that country. In 1797, there were 60 or 70,000*l.* of Scotch notes in circulation in England.

Mr H. Gurney said, that if any new system were adopted with respect to Scotland, distress and ruin, he was convinced, would follow. The exchange on London had the effect of keeping down an over-issue of Scotch paper: so that there was no danger to be apprehended in that respect.

Mr T. Wilson said, that by the exemption of Scotland from the system which was to prevail in England, an undue commercial and agricultural advantage was given to the one country which was denied to the other; and this was the infliction of injustice.

Mr Alderman Heygate thought, that the only difference between the English and Scotch system was, that the latter afforded, from its nature, a superior security. Why not, then, have adopted the better plan in England? Why not have established chartered banks, and required government security from those who issued *l.* notes? With some modification of the principle, there was no English banker who would object to such a system of security.

Mr Ellis said, that precisely upon the same ground that the committee had excepted Scotland from the operation of the general system, he could have produced abundant evidence to except several of the counties of England. In fact, the distinction now sought to be established for Scotland respecting the currency, was just as rational, as if they were to introduce one coin-bill for Ireland, another for Scotland, and a third for England.

After a few words from Mr Cripps

and Mr Maxwell, the report was ordered to be printed.

[It only remains to be noticed that both the Promissory notes and Bank Charter-bills received the royal assent.

As a subject closely connected with the convulsions of the money-market, we proceed to notice a renewed attempt made by Mr Sergeant Onslow to procure a repeal of the usury laws.]

In the House of Commons, on Wednesday, Feb. 15, Mr Sergeant Onslow rose to move for leave to bring in a bill to repeal the usury laws. He must, however, express his regret, that the House rejected his bill last session, because, had they taken a different course, and allowed it to pass into a law, the late panic and all its attendant and still attending distresses would have been much mitigated, and in some of the great manufacturing districts many difficulties would have been removed which were now severely felt. He could prove that, in many instances, more than 100 per cent had been given for money in the city of London, notwithstanding, and in consequence of the usury laws.

Mr Davenport renewed his opposition to this measure, and would continue to resist it so long as he had a seat in that House. His firm belief was, that nothing could be devised more mischievous for the landed interest; it would necessarily disturb the whole mortgage system, affect the property of the kingdom, and substitute a wild plan of theory in the room of useful practical experience. He called upon government to take a part in stopping the eagerness for introducing such bills, and to look to themselves in time, before a perseverance in error brought ruin upon the country.

Mr Bright was glad that the bill was thus early opposed. It was essential that the country gentlemen should not be year after year agitated in their minds, and more particularly at a time when they ought to be kept at ease. He condemned in the strongest manner the re-introduction of such a bill as that now submitted for their consideration; it could be productive of no good, and would disturb existing arrangements.

Mr Irving thought, that had this bill been in operation during the late crisis in the money-market, the heavy sacrifices made by individuals would have been lighter than they unfortunately had been, and they would not have heard of such enormous sums lost in the attempt to maintain the credit of individuals. He thought, that in place of the present crisis being unfavourable to the introduction of such a bill, it was rather in favour of its wisdom, justice, and policy. At all events, he trusted the House would not take a stand against the bill in this early stage.

Mr Bennett said, that from a persuasion that money would be easier obtained, and on cheaper terms, after this bill should pass, than it had been hitherto, he should now, as he had done on former occasions, support the measure.

Mr Sykes said, that it was most unaccountable that gentlemen should think the bill would act against the landed interest. What was the situation of that interest at this moment? By law they were interdicted from paying more than 5 per cent interest for money; but in point of fact the law was frequently evaded by resorting to the ruinous system of annuities,—a system which had brought some of the noblest estates in this country into complete dilapidation. He supported this bill, because he thought that, so far from prejudicing

the interest of landed proprietors, it would greatly serve them, and be found most advantageous to their money concerns. All other commodities (for money was only a commodity) were open to the competition of individuals, and there ought not to be an exception for money. On the whole, he wished to see the subject in the hands of ministers, and then to have it fully considered by the House.

Mr R. Gordon said, that the landed interest did not stand in need of the suggestions of the honourable member (Mr Sykes). He condemned the honourable gentleman's avidity to assist the interests of the landed gentlemen with new theories; it would be better to allow the country gentlemen to take care of themselves, for surely they ought to be the best judges of what suited their own affairs.

Mr Wodehouse was decidedly opposed to the bill, because he thought it impossible to calculate the effect it might have upon the landed interests.

Colonel Davies thought, that a provision might be introduced in this bill, to exempt the country gentlemen from its operation. They might still be permitted to pay 13 or 14 per cent upon mortgages; but surely the trading classes might be permitted to borrow money on such terms as they thought more conducive to their interests, than was permitted as the law now stood.

Mr Monck was strongly opposed to the principle of the usury laws; they tied up the hands of the borrower of money, although they allowed the sacrifice of a man's goods at any rate he could sell them, for the supply of his necessities. Traders and country gentlemen might be very differently situated in their relative circumstances, and what would do very well,

for the one, might be very disadvantageous to the other. Mortgages upon land were in general given for a long run of years, but a trader's pecuniary wants might be only for a short time, and would therefore justify his paying a different price for the accommodation. One common measure for credit and security was inapplicable. The man who could give the collateral security of land in his bargain, ought to have money on better terms than the borrower who had only his personal security to offer. As to the time of introducing this bill, he thought it rather favourable than otherwise; for the late crisis had thrown great light upon the subject.

Mr John Smith could state of his own personal knowledge, that during the panic in the money-market last December, enormous sums had been paid for pecuniary loans; indeed, he knew an instance, in which for a very large sum no less than from 74 to 76 per cent had been paid. This of course had been done by a bargain in selling out stock for money. What, then, must be the state of the law, when such things could be done in spite of its penalties? In fact, if a man wanted money, he would make his own terms for obtaining it.

Mr Wynn supported the motion; and, in so doing, he felt, that instead of injuriously interfering with the landed interest, he was conferring a great boon upon that body. He had known many instances of the bad effects of the usury laws, and particularly one about ten years ago, when a person possessing one of the largest landed properties in the country had a mortgage which was standing for thirty years. The security was for 40,000*l.*, and 20,000*l.* had been paid off, when the remainder was called in: it was impossible, at the time, to get this sum at the usual rate of interest, and it was borrowed at 9 per

cent by annuities. When the committee sat upon the usury laws, they had before them the evidence of eminent solicitors, who concurred in opinion that the landed interest would be benefited by the change. These usury laws were part of the old statute system, which foolishly sought to regulate the prices of all commodities.

Mr Calcraft would not pretend to say that casual instances of individual hardship had not occurred, but these could not be remedied by any alteration in the law; nor, while government paid 6 per cent for money, could the public borrow at less. His honourable friend (Mr J. Smith) had alluded to the enormous sums which had lately been paid in the city for pecuniary accommodation; but this was in the gambling transactions of the Stock Exchange, where it was the daily practice to give and take in this illegal manner. This spirit of gambling there was no possibility of stopping; it must go on whatever was the state of the law, and like the games of hazard, *rouge et noir*, and *faro*, be carried on in defiance of every legal enactment. But gentlemen said, why should the trader be debarred of a benefit, merely because it was unpalatable to the country gentlemen? Well, then, let a bill be brought in to enable traders to borrow upon any terms they pleased, and not affecting the mortgages of the country. Then, if the trading-bill worked well, perhaps the landed interest would consent to participate in the experiment. At present, however, the only result of such a bill as this would be generally to increase the rate of interest. They were always told of the terrible operation of annuities, and spendthrifts would still be found, even were this bill passed, to fly to annuitants to satisfy their cravings; but the amount of annuities, as compared with mortgages, was very small indeed; they

were not in a greater proportion than as forty to one. So that, were they to legislate upon the notion which some gentlemen entertained of the subject, they would be passing a law for the exception, and not for the rule. Were such a bill once passed, was it likely that the Bank would permit the 1,200,000*l.* which they had now out at 4 per cent, to remain at that rate of interest? Every man who had money out upon mortgage would, in such a case, as a duty he owed his family, recall it, and demand better terms. It was a very impolitic step to bring forward this measure, when money matters, so far as the interest of mortgages was concerned, were in a very satisfactory state. Those who were really interested were perfectly satisfied with their present condition; and why, therefore, disturb it?

Mr Peel said, that his right honourable friend (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) had been too much engaged in most important matters connected with the state of the country, to allow him to give this subject that attention which it required, or to enable him at the present time to pronounce an opinion upon it. He hoped, therefore, that the learned gentleman would postpone the measure,—he did not mean for the session, but for a short period,—in order to allow time for its consideration. Upon the general principle of the usury laws as *res integra*, he would not now say anything further than that, whether defensible or not, their operation had within the last three months been unfortunate.

Leave was then given to bring in the bill: but, at the recommendation of the Chancellor of the Exchequer (April 17th) it was afterwards postponed till next session.

In our last volume we indulged in a few comments regarding the causes of the mania for speculation which

had distinguished the years 1824-5; and in which, we believed, partly originated the commercial distress which the country suffered. Between that mania and the system of English banking, we considered there was some existing connexion; but whether either of these should be assigned as the cause of the other, we did not, nor do we yet, pretend to determine. We are now satisfied, however, that the speculative mania was fed and inflamed, by the facility of obtaining paper-money—in other words, discounts, proceeding from the system of country banking establishments; and that by a natural reaction, the above mania increased the prodigality, in discounting, of country bankers, and, in fact, drew them within its vortex, and made them speculators, not only within but beyond the proper limits of their own business. We have no doubt whatever that the low rate of interest also greatly assisted the mania; and it is probable that the reduction of that rate proceeded not so much from a superabundance of capital in the market, or any other cause which has been assigned for it, as from the eagerness to discount of many of the bankers.

Assuming, as the legislature seems to have done, that the excessive issue of bank-paper was the chief, though perhaps not the immediate cause of the existing commercial distress, we have still great doubts whether it, the legislature, proceeded upon correct principles, when it provided a corrective for the evil, by passing the act which suppresses the circulation of small notes.

In the first place, we cannot help expressing our surprise at the anxiety which was manifested by men of all parties,—particularly by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr Peel—by Mr Tierney and Mr Brougham,—to reject and repudiate a doctrine

which, only a few years previously, had been consecrated by almost unanimous votes of both Houses of Parliament, namely, that paper currency payable in gold, by law, on demand, could never exist in excess—a maxim, by the spirit of which it was assumed, that the issuers of that paper were not only legally bound, but were always in a condition to pay it on demand. Mr Brougham observed, that “experience alone had shaken his firm belief in that theory;” while Mr Peel and others expressed their conviction, founded on experience, “that a metallic currency and a paper currency could not exist together.” Were this supposed incompatibility of the two currencies a fact, it would prove little or nothing; for still the question would remain behind, which of the two currencies is the best? But to the *experience* of Mr Brougham, Mr Peel, and the rest, (of the nature and extent of which we profess our entire ignorance,) we may be permitted to oppose the experience of Scotland, and of the United States of America; in which countries, the banks there being bound to pay their paper in gold on demand, and being also on a proper footing in respect of means and stability, paper never did, and, it may be demonstrated, cannot, in the nature of things, exist in excess, and in which, to a certain extent, a metallic currency has always obtained along with one of paper.

In the second place, we affirm, that in every commercial country where a system of credit prevails, (and without credit, there can be little commerce,) there will and must be a paper currency of one kind or other. If there be no bank notes, there will be a circulation of bills of exchange. In Lancashire, where there are no banks which issue paper, and indeed through the whole manufacturing districts of the north of England, where there are few such banks, almost the entire circulation, except for wages and small retail business, consists of bills of exchange drawn by merchants or manufacturers upon others, which pass from hand to hand like bank notes, and often through as many hands before they are withdrawn from circulation, as bank notes do before they are returned upon the banks which issue them.* The same system, it is well known, prevails, more or less, over the whole kingdom. If, then, bills of exchange everywhere, to a certain extent, and in the manufacturing districts of the North of England, almost entirely, are employed as a circulating medium, in lieu of bank notes, it appears certain that, for transactions of any considerable amount, (unless the system of conducting business, especially selling upon credit, be entirely changed,) so far as the circulation of bank notes is suppressed, their place will be supplied by bills of exchange.

* In the evidence of Lewis Lloyd, Esq. taken before the Lords' Committee on Scotch and Irish currency, the following, with regard to the currency of Lancashire, occurs:—

“Do those bills of exchange circulate from hand to hand in Manchester? Yes; when a bill is drawn in favour of a manufacturer, he indorses it usually to the person to whom he pays it; and the person to whom he pays it, pays it again to another; and it goes on often till it is covered with indorsements.

“So that, in fact, it forms a part of the circulating medium? The principal part.

“Have you not seen bills of exchange of that nature, for the value of 10*l.* with fifty or sixty names upon them? Yes; with twice that number. I have seen slips of paper attached to a bill as long as a sheet of paper could go; and when that was filled, another attached to that.”

And here the question occurs—Whether is a circulation of bank notes, or one of bills of exchange, the best? It will not be denied that a bank note and a bill of exchange, are essentially the same, the credit of the person who issues either being pledged to its representing so much value, and its being convertible into that value; and, therefore, the amounts of both in circulation, if equal, must equally, if they do at all, affect the prices of labour and commodities, and the rates of foreign exchange, two points much insisted upon by the opposers of a paper currency. But in other respects, we conceive bank notes to be by far the best of the two species of currency. They are less liable to being forged than bills of exchange; and are not at all exposed, as bills of exchange are, to being challenged in courts of law, on account of the onerosity of acceptance or indorsation, or on account of technical irregularities in their negotiation. Besides, a properly constituted bank will issue its notes only to persons whose credit and means are known to be unexceptionable; on the other hand, the merchant or manufacturer, too often, from an over-anxiety to get his goods off his hand, is too little inquisitive as to the circumstances of his customer who buys upon credit; and as a premium for probable or possible risks, makes an addition to the proper price of his goods. That sales are very frequently conducted under those circumstances, and upon that plan, is perfectly notorious; and, therefore, we can perceive that a circulation of bills of exchange, were it entirely to supplant that of bank notes, would come very injuriously to affect prices, and, by consequence, the rates of foreign exchange.

In the third place, we would observe that, even were we to think that the views entertained by the Legislature of the cause of the commercial distress are perfectly correct, we would still be of opinion, that by its act—for suppressing the small note circulation, it has provided a very nugatory remedy for the evil. Though speculators under the new law, cannot obtain bank notes under 5*l.*, may they not obtain notes at or above that sum upon credit? Few speculators, we apprehend, at least such whose extravagance assisted in bringing distress upon the commercial world, much more in afflicting it with a perfect tornado, ever resorted to the use of small notes in their transactions;* their transactions individually were much above the value of a small note; and if they employed such notes *in cumulis*, it is clear that they could have got large notes of equal value with the same facility. What they might have done, they may yet do under the present law; and, therefore, it seems to us undeniable, that the law, as a means of checking the spirit of speculation and overtrading, must be wholly inoperative. It is only doing justice to Mr Hume to observe, that he, of all the members of the legislature, was the only one who seemed cognizant of this very obvious truth.

There were members in both Houses who, in referring to the distress in which the failure of a banking establishment involves those of the working classes, (by an affectation of sentiment they were on all occasions designated the *poor* working classes,) who are holders of its small notes, attached to that circumstance such a disproportioned weight, and so almost exclusively reasoned upon it, as to

* The *over issue* of the three last years consisted in *doubling* the circulation of the small notes, and *trebling* that of the 5*l.* notes!

render it a substantive, and, in a great measure, an independent argument. Now, though the circumstance may be made use of as an auxiliary argument, as an independent one, it goes for nothing. It greatly depends upon the primary question, which we conceive to be just as unsettled as ever—Is a currency in small notes in any degree necessary to the commercial and manufacturing prosperity of the country? Should that question be decided upon right principles in the affirmative, then it might follow that the injury inflicted on commerce and manufactures, by the suppression of small notes, is a national evil which would much exceed that of the occasional sufferings inflicted on the working classes by the failures of banks; and also, that such injury would drag in its train a greater amount of suffering to the working classes themselves than they have been ever exposed to from any incident connected with the small note system.

The subject, as it concerns the working classes, appears to us to have been altogether most crudely and hastily considered. We conceive that the pictures of distress caused to those classes by the failures of banks, with which the newspapers occasionally harrow the imagination, are grossly exaggerated. It must be a very small proportion of those classes, who are in possession of the smallest amount of bank notes. And as to the savings of the few who do save, we suspect they either take the form of large notes, or are invested in saving banks. But further, it must be admitted, that the distress caused by an occasional solitary bank failure, is not a case which warrants a legislative interference with the national currency. The honourable persons who made use of the argument to which we have been adverting, must have contemplated the case of an extensive crash

of country banks—of the simultaneous breaking down of forty, sixty, eighty, or an hundred of them. Such a catastrophe, if not caused by a general derangement of manufactures and commerce, must necessarily and instantaneously produce such a derangement, in which case the working classes, like their betters, will doubtless suffer severely; and in the sum total of their distress, which includes a partial, if not an entire deprivation of employment, the loss of the few small notes of insolvent banks which they may have among them, will form a very contemptible item.

With regard to the merits of a paper currency generally, we would observe, that if paper actually represent value in the hands of the banker who issues it, (which is supposing that he does not issue beyond his means of retiring,) and is really convertible into that value on demand, we conceive it to be by far the best and cheapest currency of any. Were all banks properly constituted, it may be assumed, that there would seldom, if ever, be an over issue; because these bankers would limit their issues to their means of retiring, and would be scrupulous in issuing their paper only in exchange for real value, or personal obligations equivalent to, and convertible into, such value; and thus would exactly proportion their issues to the legitimate wants of commerce. In the case we are supposing, then, a bank note represents value as faithfully as is done by gold; it discharges as well, in every respect, the functions of gold; and, like gold, its amount must be exactly commensurate with the wants of the commercial world. Where, we should wish to know, is the difference between a 1*l*. bank note under the system we are supposing, and a sovereign? Gold, no doubt, besides being a representative of value, has an intrinsic value, which bank paper has

not; but if the note can purchase the same value as a sovereign, and if it is issued by the banker for the same equivalent for which he would part with a sovereign, the two, to all intents and purposes of a circulating medium, must be precisely the same; the amount of the one kind of currency must be governed by the same laws as the other, and consequently there can be no greater danger of an excess of the one than of the other; and by a farther consequence, prices and the rates of exchange are as little liable to be affected by the one as by the other.

However, banks upon the system we have been supposing, did not exist in England. In that country, where all other trading establishments have been brought to a height of perfection, banks, owing to the mischievous partiality of government to the Bank of England, never were upon a right footing, and the science of banking was comparatively neglected. By a sort of monopoly conferred on the national bank, no other banking establishment, consisting of more than six partners, was permitted to be formed, by which the object of the monopoly was very effectually attained. There were few country banks of such amount of capital, and extent of connexions, as could secure the public confidence, especially during periods of alarm; while there were many scarcely possessed of capital at all, but which, by a variety of practices, some of them not very creditable, contrived to push their notes into circulation. That fact alone proves, not that the country was deceived with regard to the value of their notes, but that it required, and could not dispense with, a paper currency of one kind or other; and that, since it was not supplied in sufficient quantities with a good kind, *e. g.* Bank of England notes, it was obliged to have recourse to that which

was spurious. It is easy to conceive that the members of banks of such limited construction, could not escape being infected by every new fever in the mercantile world; and that, with the money of their customers in their hands, and an unlimited command of their own paper money, they would rush into all manner of extraneous speculations. It is easy to conceive, that to get their paper into more extended circulation, they would be liberal to excess in the discounting of bills. And in these two ways, the currency could not fail to be swelled beyond its proper limits; and, besides that much of it was base in its own nature as imperfectly representing value, the excess would necessarily depreciate the whole mass.

Such a state of things loudly called for a speedy correction; but, considering the source and nature of the disease, the cure was to be found, not in regulating the banking system, which was done by the small note bill, but by *unregulating* it, which was done, to a certain extent, by the bill for abridging the extensive privileges of the Bank of England—a bill which has our entire approbation.

In the course of the discussions, Mr Peel took occasion to express his regret that in 1793, the latter measure had not been resorted to, instead of the Cash Payment Restriction Bill, in which regret we cordially concur. When we consider the gigantic scale of the various trading establishments of England, the enormous capital invested in them, and the skill with which they are conducted, we cannot suffer ourselves to doubt, that, had the banking trade in 1793 been freed from restrictions, the admirable example of Scotland being in full view, banking establishments on the broadest bases—of abundant capitals, and conducted upon the most sound and legitimate principles—banks, in short,

like the Scotch chartered ones, would, ere this, have sprung up in England, and supplanted the rickety and delusive banking concerns which there prevailed, simply because no others, excepting the Bank of England, were permitted by law to exist.*

The attempt to extend the measure of suppressing the small note circulation to Scotland, created in that country an universal ferment, and was universally resisted by all classes, without any distinction of parties. The Scotch were justly attached to their banking system, which rested upon the firmest basis, and to a naturally poor country, was fraught with innumerable advantages. They ascribed to it, and justly too, the advances which the country had made in wealth and improvement; and believed its best interests to be identified with the existence of the system. They were the more attached to it, because a bank failure in Scotland was almost unknown, and had never occasioned a loss to the public—a circumstance, we may observe, which proceeds, not altogether from the superior skill with which Scotch banks are conducted, but partly from the superior equity of the Scotch law of debtor and creditor, with regard to the real estate of the debtor, as compared with that of England. With these impressions and feelings, they could not but resent a proposal to punish them for the sins of English bankers, arising out of vicious English legislation, by depriving them of a currency which could not be charged with any of the evils imputed to that of the sister kingdom, and to themselves was highly benefi-

cial. As to the incompatibility which was alleged of the two different currencies in the two kingdoms, they pleaded that when formerly England had its gold, and Scotland its paper currency, the latter did not clash with or affect the state of the former in the least; and that Scotch notes never did circulate much beyond the English border, excepting at a heavy discount; and besides, that were there any danger of, or any injury to result to England, from the circulation in it of Scotch notes, either might be provided against by penal enactments. The measure also appeared to them the more uncalled for, since, according to the views entertained by them regarding currency, the Bank Charter Bill, if passed, would eventually lead to such an improvement of the banking system in England, as to render it safe and advisable to permit even there the circulation of small notes.

We do not purpose here to enter upon an explanation of the system of Scotch banking, and its peculiar advantages. These are fully set forth in the reports by the committees of the two Houses of Parliament, upon the small note circulation of Scotland and Ireland. But the tirade of Mr Tierney against ministers for complying with the recommendations of these committees, not to disturb at present the currencies of Scotland and Ireland, calls for a few observations. He contended that the currency which might properly have been permitted to Scotland when she was poor, had become improper since she had grown rich. Now the prosperity of Scotland is by most people ascribed to the nature of

* It is a very delusive argument, that because many of the English banks did not consist of so many as six partners, none of them would consist of more, even were the restriction to the above number removed. The difference, in point of credit with the country, between a bank of four partners and one of six, is very small, while the difference as to the proportions of the dividends upon the profits is so very great, as to induce, under the old system, a limitation of the copartnery.

its currency; and a cautious politician might have reasoned, that with the cause the effect would necessarily cease. The banking system and the prosperity of that country have grown up together, and are so entwined, as to be inseparable. Since its commercial transactions have greatly increased, so much greater need has the country of that currency, which has been truly naturalized to it, and the place of which it could not supply, but by some inconceivable effort. Mr Tierney, with astonishing littleness of thought, alluded to the wealth which was imported into Scotland by those of its natives who had realized fortunes in the East Indies. He might have allowed that Scotland should have some chance of keeping pace

with England in riches; and allowing that, he might also have allowed that natives of England, as well as of Scotland, have realized fortunes in the East Indies; and that all the wealth imported into Scotland from that country, is as nothing, compared with the wealth derived by England from the East India Company's trade, of which the port of London has the monopoly. He might also have reflected, that any little gold which Scotland may attract within its territory, must be exported from it to pay its taxes, a very small proportion of which only is expended within it, the rest being expended in England and Ireland; and to pay the rents of its absentee landed proprietors, who reside and expend their rents in England.

CHAPTER III.

*The Budget.—Management of the Public Debt.—Funding of Exchequer Bills
—Public Balances at the Bank,—State of the Nation.*

THE state of our finances, interesting at all times, had become more so from the recent and still existing embarrassments in trade and commerce. As the revenue is an indicator of the actual condition of the bulk of the people, there was an eagerness to know, from the exposé to be made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether, in the course of the year, their comforts had been greatly encroached upon, or the stamina of the national prosperity seriously impaired; and what, in the opinion of government, were the actual prospects of the country. But, notwithstanding all that eagerness, the subjects immediately connected with finance underwent, this session, comparatively little discussion, the attention of Parliament having been almost entirely engrossed by the measures brought forward by Ministers for rectifying the currency, and relieving the public distress.

On Monday, March, 13, the House of Commons having resolved itself into a committee of ways and means, the Chancellor of Exchequer spoke as follows:—

Although the circumstances under which we are now placed, differ in some material respects from those which

existed at the corresponding period of the last year, there is nothing to create either alarm or despondency. In the course of the discussions which have taken place with regard to the commercial distress of the country, there has been a great deal of very unnecessary contest between those who are sneeringly denominated philosophers, and those who designate themselves by the more humble title of practical men. I call it “unnecessary contest,” because I consider it to be the bounden duty of the legislature to endeavour at all times to render available the sound reasoning and theory of one class, by applying to them the practical experience of the other. If those who have to prepare their minds for the consideration of subjects of this nature, are to be told that books must be thrown aside, and elementary reasoning rejected, I know not at what fountain they are to drink, if they are to be driven from those springs where science and knowledge are the presiding deities. And, sir, when we find that in every class of the community knowledge has extended, and is extending itself to a degree, which, but half a century ago, would have been deemed impossible,—are we to be behind-hand in

availing ourselves of the increasing lights of human intelligence? Is it not, on the contrary, our duty to struggle to be foremost in the race? I am aware, that there are persons who think this general diffusion of knowledge the misfortune of the age; but, for my own part, I confess that I cannot conceive how that mind can be constituted which contemplates the progress of human knowledge with an eye of fear. On me it produces an impression diametrically the reverse. Before I can satisfactorily proceed to explain the view which government takes of what it is fitting to do under existing circumstances, I ought to recall the attention of the committee to the course which has been pursued with respect to our financial system during the last two or three years. When, in 1823, it first became my duty to submit to the House a view of our finances, I ventured to assume that, in the course of that year, a certain amount of revenue would be realized; and allow me to ask,—What was the result? In the course of that session, we repealed taxes to the amount of about 3,200,000*l.*; of that sum I calculated that about a million and a half would be lost to the revenue in the course of 1823; so that, in point of fact, my original estimate would have been borne out, if the receipts had been 1,500,000*l.* less than 52,200,000*l.* Now, what was the result? Why, that the actual revenue, after sustaining the loss that I have mentioned, amounted to 52,017,000*l.*; being less by 183,000*l.* only than my first estimate; and exceeding, by 1,318,000*l.*, what would have been sufficient to realize my anticipations, after the reduction of taxes had been adopted. In the year 1824, I estimated the probable produce of the revenue at 51,265,000*l.* In the course of that session, however, taxes were repealed to a very considerable amount; and I calculated that the loss which the revenue would immediately sustain in

consequence, would be 630,000*l.* But what was the fact? The actual receipts of the year, notwithstanding, were considerably beyond the original estimate which I had formed: for, the estimate being 51,265,000*l.*, the actual produce was 52,562,000*l.* Again, in 1825, I assumed that the revenue derived from the same sources would be 51,975,000*l.* From the repeal of taxes, subsequently enacted, I expected that in the course of that year the loss upon that assumed amount would be about 650,000*l.* Yet, the actual receipt was 52,259,000*l.*; or, 284,000*l.* above my original estimate. It thus appears, that in those three years the actual receipts exceeded the estimates by the sum of 1,398,000*l.*, notwithstanding the concomitant repeal of no less than 8,000,000*l.* of taxes. I have already stated, that in the course of the three years to which I have been alluding, taxes to the amount of 8,000,000*l.* were repealed. But I would request the committee to go back with me to 1816, when parliament was enabled to pursue something like a systematic diminution of our burdens. It has been argued that the reduction in the burdens of the people, which has been made since the conclusion of the war, is not worth speaking of; and not more than sufficient to balance the difference which has taken place in the value of our currency. It has also been maintained, that it is impossible for us to return to a more sound currency unless his Majesty's ministers are prepared decidedly and essentially to curtail the whole expenditure of the empire at once. I consider these two propositions to be wholly unfounded. Adverting, in the first place, to the reduction which has taken place since 1816, I will state to the committee the precise process of the reduction which originated at that period. In 1816 (the first year in which any reduction of taxation took place) the property tax was repealed, the annual amount of

which was no less than 14,320,000*l*. In the same year, the war malt duty of 2,790,000*l*. was abandoned; and further relief was afforded, in the diminution of war-customs, duties on tonnage, and coasting duties, to the extent of 828,000*l*. To these are to be added 35,000*l*. arising from a small reduction of the assessed taxes in Ireland, and 315,000*l*. from the diminution of the duty on malt and spirits in the same country. The total amount of taxation thus repealed in 1816, was 18,288,000*l*. In 1817, partial relief, under the heads of shop-windows, husbandry, horses, &c. was afforded, to the extent of 280,000*l*. In 1818, various assessed taxes were reduced in Ireland, to the amount of 236,000*l*. In 1819, the policy pursued by parliament was of a different character; and a very considerable addition, to the amount of 3,190,000*l*. was made to the taxation of the country. In 1820, no alteration whatever took place. In 1821, the repeal of the agricultural horse tax lessened the burdens of the farming class of the people by 480,000*l*. In 1823, the duty upon malt was reduced one shilling a-bushel, and the public were relieved thereby to the amount of 1,400,000*l*. Nearly the whole of the impost upon salt was also removed, being a reduction of 1,290,000*l*.; there was likewise a reduction of half the duty upon leather, 300,000*l*. the tonnage duty, 160,000*l*.; and the tax upon hearths and windows in Ireland, 200,000*l*.;—so that the total amount of taxes repealed in the year 1822 was 3,355,000*l*. In 1823, various assessed taxes in England were repealed, to the amount of 2,250,000*l*.; whilst the relinquishment of the whole of them in Ireland, saved the inhabitants of that country the payment of 100,000*l*. Added to this, was a reduction of the duties on spirits, both in Ireland and in Scotland, to the extent of 809,000*l*.; and a reduction of 50,000*l*. in several minor branches of the customs. The

total relief in 1823, therefore, was 3,200,000*l*. In 1824, the following duties, to the following amount, were diminished: viz on rum, 150,000*l*.; coals, 200,000*l*.; law stamps, 200,000*l*.; wool, 350,000*l*.; silk, 527,000*l*.; union duties, from 1822, 300,000*l*.; making a total of 1,727,000*l*.—The total repeal in 1825, was no less than 3,146,000*l*.; and it was produced in the following manner:—by the relinquishment of the remainder of the salt duty, about 200,000*l*.; of the duty on hemp, 100,000*l*.; on coffee and cocoa, 150,000*l*.; on wine, 900,000*l*.; on British spirits and rum, 1,250,000*l*.; on cyder, 20,000*l*.; on assessed taxes, 276,000*l*.; and, finally, on customs, in various minor articles of commerce, 250,000*l*.—Thus, sir, it appears that the grand total of taxes repealed from 1816 to 1825, amounts to the sum of 30,712,000*l*.; from this, however, must be deducted the sum of 3,190,000*l*. being the amount of taxes imposed in 1819. Now, sir, I say with confidence, that the repeal of 27,522,000*l*. of taxes, is a substantial and important relief to the country; and that it is impossible for any man in his senses to argue, that this large remission of duties has not mainly contributed to that increased consumption which has itself augmented the revenue. It is very true, that in 1816, if the rates of exchange with foreign countries be taken as the criterion, the value of the currency was depreciated, perhaps to the extent of 5 per cent; so that the whole reduction of taxes which, as I have stated, took place in that year, cannot perhaps be looked upon as a clear reduction. If the depreciation were 5 per cent, then, upon the actual amount of taxation in the year in which it occurred, namely 61,000,000*l*. that portion would amount to about 3,000,000*l*.; and if we deduct this 3,000,000*l*. from the 27,522,000*l*. of taxes remitted, it will leave 24,522,000*l*. as the actual reduction of the burdens

of the people, since 1816. If we deduct the 24,000,000*l.* from 58,000,000*l.* (which would have been the amount of the revenue, after deducting the sum of 3,000,000*l.*;) the result would leave only 34,000,000*l.* as the produce of the revenue; but the actual receipts of 1825, notwithstanding all the diminutions, were not less than 52,000,000*l.* And how have the 18,000,000*l.* the difference between the two sums, been obtained?—solely from the greater means which the people have possessed of consuming the various articles upon which taxes are levied. I should like now to ask, whether nothing has been done, either by his Majesty's government, or by the legislature. I declare most sincerely, that if there be anything uppermost in my mind in the consideration of these matters, it is an earnest desire to lay aside all thoughts of mere official interest and patronage. Whilst we have been decreasing the pressure of taxation, to the amount of 27,522,000*l.* since 1816, and of 8,000,000*l.* since 1823, we have not been inattentive to the permanent burdens of the kingdom. On the 5th January, 1823, the public funded debt amounted to 796,530,000*l.*; on the 5th January, 1826, it amounted only to 778,128,000*l.*; being a reduction in the three years of 18,402,000*l.*; which is at the rate of nearly 6,134,000*l.* per annum. On the 5th January, 1823, the unfunded debt was 26,221,000*l.*; on the 5th January, 1826, it was 31,703,000*l.* being a reduction of nearly 4,578,000*l.* The total charge (including the charge for management) on the 5th Jan. 1823, was 28,123,000*l.*; the total charge of the unredeemed funded debt, on the 5th January, 1826, was 27,117,000*l.*; being a reduction on the charge of the funded debt of 1,006,000*l.* The interest on Exchequer Bills, during the same period, was reduced from 1,100,000*l.* to 820,000*l.*; being a reduction of 280,000*l.* The total charge of the two descriptions of

debt was, on the 5th January, 1823, 29,286,000*l.*; on the 5th Jan. 1826, only 27,946,000*l.*; being a reduction of 1,340,000*l.* in the annual charge of the whole debt, in the course of three years. There is another part of our expenditure, against which I have always felt inclined to wage the most unrelenting warfare; I mean the expense attending the collection of the revenue. In 1818 the expense of collecting the taxes of the United Kingdom was 4,353,000*l.*; in 1825 it was reduced to 3,832,000*l.*; being a diminution of no less than half a million. This was a great deal to do in the time. Nor, sir, let it be supposed that this was a very easy task. We have had many strong prejudices, many powerful interests, many deep-rooted habits, to contend with. I think I cannot give a better proof of the sort of feeling which we have had to encounter, than by advertg to what has been recently published to the world in the northern part of this island. It seems that the extinction of the two independent Boards of Customs and Excise in Scotland (and the same course has been pursued in Ireland) and their amalgamation with the central Boards in England, are to be considered by every true Scotchman as derogatory to his national dignity, offensive to his national pride, and subversive—good God! of what?—subversive of his prescriptive rights? When Antony, in the beautiful speech which Shakespeare puts into his mouth over the dead body of Cæsar, exclaims—

“O what a fall was there, my countrymen!
Then you and I and all of us fell down,
And bloody treason flourished over us!”—

the appeal was not more vehement; the passions of his auditors were not more keenly excited, than the appeal which is now made, and the fire which is now kindled, against the unfortunate author of the woful tragedy which terminated the existence of two insignificant fiscal

departments. Sir, I could not imagine at first what was meant by all this indignation. I felt almost like "a guilty thing," oppressed by the weight of some undefined offence. If I chanced to meet my noble friend at the head of the Admiralty, or any of my honourable friends who sit at the same Board, I hardly dared look them in the face. I felt confident that the denunciation was for some dreadful crime, but I knew not what; and I was left for some time in all the agony of doubt. At last, I had the consolation of recollecting that I had Scotch blood, and good old Scotch blood too, flowing in my veins; and was persuaded that I could never be insensible to the honour and dignity of that ancient country. But, sir, I confess that, when I have been passing in review all the signal triumphs which Scotland has achieved, in all that adorns and ennobles, and benefits the human race; when I have been calling to mind the originality, the grace, and the genius of her poets; the eloquence, the accuracy, and the research of her historians; the elaborate lucubrations, and the profound discoveries of her philosophers; when I have been watching their progress as they respectively either traversed the delightful regions of fancy, or penetrated the depths and recesses of history and of science, I never thought of including among the worthies of Scotland, the members of her independent Board of Excise. And when I have been reading with grateful exultation of the heroic exploits of an Abercrombie, a Moore, a Lynedoch, and a Hopetoun; when, two years ago, it fell to my lot to propose to this House to do an act of tardy justice, by proposing to vote a monument to the memory of Lord Duncan, I certainly never dreamt that the honour of Scotland would be tarnished, if in the same year I transferred the seat of the Board

of Customs from Edinburgh to London. I always thought that the honour of Scotland rested on a more solid basis. I thought that the glory of the great men who have adorned the annals of that country, would have shone with perennial light, if the Excise had never meddled with her whisky, nor the Customs controlled her commerce; and I trust we may long continue to contemplate their lustre with instruction and delight, although her revenue boards have lost the affected importance of their imaginary independence, and have been swallowed up, O! dreadful catastrophe! in the all-devouring vortex of English uniformity. When, too, I am told, that the abolition of these and similar offices is something disrespectful to the what is called (not, however, by me) the impoverished nobility of Scotland, I think that if I were a real Scotchman, I should be too proud to admit that the honour of the ancient lineage of that ancient kingdom would be diminished, because the government had less patronage to offer, and her nobility less of emolument to covet. These measures, dictated alone by the necessity of judicious retrenchment, may indeed be represented as punishments inflicted on an innocent and unoffending people, and the wrath of Scotland may be denounced against their author; but, as long as I am armed with the consciousness of seeking to diminish the burdens, and to increase the happiness of the people, I can look without terror upon the flashing of the Highland claymore, though evoked from its scabbard by the incantations of the first magician of the age. I shall now proceed to detail the estimate for the present year; 1st, as respects the charges; and, 2dly, the means by which I propose that those charges shall be met. The general heads of the two branches are as follows, viz.—

Interest and Management of the Public Debt	L. 27,117,186
Interest of Exchequer (deficiency) Bills	50,000
Civil List, and Pensions of a permanent nature, charged on the Consolidated Fund, and not the subject of an annual vote	2,065,000
Half-pay Annuity	2,800,000
Sinking Fund	5,585,235
Permanent charge on Consolidated Fund	37,617,421

The annual votes this year in the committee of supply are as follows :—

Army	7,747,000
Navy	6,135,000
Ordnance	1,754,000
Miscellaneous	2,225,000
Interest of Exchequer Bills	850,000

Annual Votes	L. 18,711,000
Add the Permanent Charge	37,617,421

The whole Expenditure of the year	L. 56,328,421
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I now, sir, proceed to state the revenue upon which I calculate to meet this expenditure :—

A small item, being the surplus of last year beyond the demand of the Sinking Fund, which I consider myself entitled to make available towards the expenditure of the present year L. 167,000

Customs and Excise; which I take together, on account of the transfer to the Customs of a large proportion of the duties formerly collected by the Excise; and the impossibility of separating the items without great confusion	37,446,000
Stamps	7,400,000
Taxes (including the Assessed Taxes)	4,800,000
Post-Office	1,550,000
Miscellaneous	1,360,000

The total income from these sources	L. 52,723,000
Payment from the Trustees of Half-pay and Pensions	1,320,000

The whole Receipts of the year	L. 57,043,000
Deduct the Expenditure	56,328,421

Surplus for Parliament to deal with as they may think fit	L. 714,579
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I lay, as the basis of my estimate, the actual receipt of the past year. The actual receipt of the Customs and Excise, for 1825, was 37,546,000*l*. But this sum* would have been much larger, had it not been for various occurrences. I allude, principally, to the amount repaid, in consequence of the reduction of the wine duty, to the holders of the stock on hand. This was no less than 1,050,000*l*. I calculate, also, upon a small addition to the receipts of the present year, arising from the farther operation of those measures for getting rid of divers useless or mischievous bounties introduced in the last session of parliament. I take the amount of these to be about 50,000*l*. There was also another circumstance which most unexpectedly affected the revenue of last year. In the course of the last session, there was carried into effect one of the most extensive alterations and amendments ever made in the laws of the Customs. In the accomplishment of so great a work, it is not wonderful that some minor errors should have crept in. The duty on tobacco, which, at the beginning of 1825, was four shillings a-pound, and which was meant to be continued at that rate, was so dealt with, that, by some strange mischance, one shilling of it lapsed on the 5th July. This accidental omission has cost the revenue 450,000*l*. The three items, then, to which I have alluded, are as follows :—

Progressive reductions of Bounties	L. 50,000
Wine Drawback, allowed last year to the wine merchants, but not to be deducted from this year's revenue	1,050,000

Loss by the lapse of Tobacco duty	450,000
	<hr/>
	L.1,550,000
If to this be added the actual produce of the Customs and Excise in 1825	37,546,000
We have a total of . . .	L.39,096,000

It is, however, obvious, that it would be preposterous to calculate upon such a receipt as this, under the present circumstances of the country. It is our duty, then, to see what deductions from this amount of 39,096,000*l.* we ought to calculate upon. In the first place, there is to be taken into the account a further loss from the reduction of taxation last year; which I estimate at 350,000*l.* I feel that I ought to explain how it happens that, after having stated the total amount of reductions effected last year to be no less than 3,146,000*l.*, I now, when speaking of the loss to be expected in one quarter, state it at no more than 350,000*l.* The reason is this: although the reduction of taxation, amounted to 3,146,000*l.*, yet, upon the principle that a judicious reduction of taxation leads to a great increase in consumption, I took the *actual* loss to the revenue at not much more than 1,500,000*l.*, of which sum 276,000*l.* would fall upon the assessed taxes; so that 250,000*l.*, being rather more than one-fourth of the *actual* loss assumed upon the customs and excise, is as much as we may expect to lose in 1826. I am, however, very sensible that, under all the circumstances attending the late derangement and confusion of the money market, it would be unsafe to frame any estimate of the revenue of the present year, without making a fair allowance for a further loss, which may be expected to arise from diminished consumption. Having already assumed that there will be a defi-

ciency in the customs and excise of 350,000*l.*, being the remainder of the loss occasioned by the reduction of taxation last year, I anticipate from diminished consumption a further loss of 1,300,000*l.* And I am confirmed in this view of the subject, when I refer to what has been the actual state of the excise revenue during the two first months of the present year, which were months of great pressure and great uneasiness. It appears that the loss has not exceeded, for that period, the sum of 2389*l.*

The gross receipts for Jan. and Feb. 1825, were	L.2,259,669
For Jan. and Feb. 1826 . .	<hr/> 2,257,280

Decrease L.2,389

But this decrease arises almost entirely from an alteration of a very extensive nature, which has been effected in regard to the system of granting licenses in Ireland, and to the scale of duties payable on those licenses. The consequence is, that whereas formerly the duties on licenses were payable early in the year, they will, most of them, not now be payable until after the 5th of July; and from this change there has resulted in the present quarter a loss of not less than 100,000*l.* If, therefore, I may venture to judge from the result of the two months in question, I do not think that I am taking too sanguine a view, when I estimate the probable loss in this year from that cause at 1,300,000*l.* Deducting, then, this sum, and the deficiency to which I have before alluded, from the amount of the customs and excise last year, together with the additions which I have above specified, it will leave 37,446,000*l.*, as the estimate of that branch of the revenue in 1826. The next head to which I shall advert, is that of stamps. Stamps produced last year 7,447,923*l.*; I shall take

their produce this year at 7,400,000*l*. The post-office, last year, produced 1,595,461*l*.; I will suppose a falling-off, in the present year, of 45,461*l*.: which will leave the post-office estimate 1,550,000*l*. The assessed taxes produced last year 4,990,961*l*. The loss to the revenue on this head will be something more considerable, since, of the 276,000*l*. remitted in 1825, not more than one-fourth was lost in that year. I anticipate, therefore, a decrease of 190,961*l*.; which will leave that estimate 4,800,000*l*. The miscellaneous items for 1826 will, on the other hand, be much larger than usual. The increase will proceed from three or four casual causes. In the first place, there is a sum of 100,000*l*. which, by treaty with the government of Holland, was to have been paid to this country in 1825. It is now, I believe, received, and will form a part of the estimate for 1826.—There is another sum, with respect to which I did not anticipate that money from such a source would again find its way into the Exchequer. The last lottery, was contracted for in 1823. I was not aware, when that contract was made, that the usual system of lotteries would protract their existence one or two years beyond the period at

which they might be contracted for. It appears that I was in the wrong, and the consequence of this is, that in the present year a sum of about 180,000*l*. will be derived to the revenue from these lotteries, which have so often, and so justly, met with the reprobation of the House. There is another item, which will come into the Exchequer; and that is, the return from Ireland of the old silver coinage, which has been called in, and replaced by the new. That new coinage cost us, last year, 500,000*l*. This year the old coin will come back, and will, probably, amount to not less than 400,000*l*. The last point to be noticed, is a sum arising from an arrangement between the Admiralty and the East India Company; who, in consideration of the increase of the navy, have felt themselves bound in justice to pay 60,000*l*. for the benefit they are deriving from the augmented naval force stationed in the Indian seas to defend their possessions.—These several sums account for the increase of the miscellaneous items from 619,088*l*., which was their produce last year, to 1,360,000*l*., which is my estimate of them for the year 1826. The general estimate for the present year, therefore, stands thus:—

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE.			
Produce of 1825	.	.	L.37,546,000
Add—Progressive Reduction of Bounties	.	.	50,000
Wine Drawback	.	.	1,050,000
Loss by lapse of Tobacco duty	.	.	450,000
			<hr/> 1,550,000
			<hr/> L.39,096,000
Deduct—Further loss from Reductions last year	.	.	350,000
Further loss from diminished consumption	.	.	1,300,000
			<hr/> 1,650,000
			<hr/> L.37,446,000
STAMPS.			
Produce of 1825	.	.	L.7,447,923
Deduct assumed loss in 1826	.	.	47,923
			<hr/> L.7,400,000
			<hr/> L.7,400,000

TAXES.	
Produce of 1825	L.4,990,961
Deduct loss from reduction in 1825	190,961
Estimate for 1826	L.4,800,000
POST-OFFICE.	
Produce of 1825	L.1,595,461
Deduct assumed loss in 1826	45,461
Estimate for 1826	L.1,550,000
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Produce of 1825	L.619,088
Add—Payment from Holland, Lottery, and East India Com- pany, on account of naval force	340,912
Add also—Silver from Ireland	400,000
	L.740,912
Estimate for 1826	L.1,360,000

I assume, under these circumstances, that (as I before stated) the condition of the revenue, during the present year, will be such as to leave us a surplus, a clear surplus, after all the deductions which I have described, of 714,000*l*. I apprehend that our choice as to its application is very limited on account of the unintentional alteration of the duty on tobacco. I have no hesitation to recommend to continue the reduction of that one-shilling duty. I should greatly have preferred carrying this reduction still further. A great deal of good has arisen from it, small as it is; it has had no inconsiderable effect in checking the smuggling of tobacco, particularly in Ireland, where that practice is carried on to an extent beyond all imagination or belief. The amount of the loss resulting from the abandonment of this part of the tobacco duty, I estimate for the whole year at about 600,000*l*. There is another subject, to which I now wish to call the attention of the committee. On the 5th of January, 1826, the Bank of England held Exchequer bills, upon advances to the government, to the

extent of about 6,000,000*l*. These bills were independent of any which the Bank might have purchased in the market, but in the month of February, the Bank, at the instance of government, consented to purchase 2,000,000*l*. of outstanding Exchequer bills. The object of this was partly to relieve the money-market from the pressure which at that time seemed to operate with peculiar force upon this species of security; and partly in the hope that the community might obtain a degree of relief from extending the general circulation. But, however willing the Bank might be to purchase these Exchequer bills, it would not have been prudent for them to do so, unless they received an assurance that the amount should, if necessary, be repaid them at no very distant period; and accordingly they were informed by government, that the amount should be repaid in the present year—I believe in the month of June. At a subsequent period the Bank consented to make advances to a large amount on goods, for the purpose of still further contributing to relieve the difficulties of

the commercial world; and it thus becomes still more important, that government should provide itself with the means of giving to the Bank every facility in their operations, which can be derived from a diminution of their general advances to government. The proposition, which I intend to submit is, that in the course of the present year, the Bank shall be repaid 6,000,000*l.* of the Exchequer bills in their possession. The committee will observe, that the Bank hold of these bills, first, the 6,000,000*l.*, which they possessed on the 5th of January last; secondly, the 2,000,000*l.*, of which they became possessed, by purchase, in February; and thirdly, rather more than 3,000,000*l.*, upon which they had made advances for the purpose of paying off the four per cent dissentients: and the total of these various sums is rather more than 11,000,000*l.* With respect to the last class of advances, provision has already been made for them by their being charged upon the Sinking Fund; and at the close of the present year they will be nearly extinguished. There remains then the sum of 8,000,000*l.*; 6,000,000*l.* of which, I propose to pay off in the course of the present session. In addition, I cannot but think that it is desirable to effect some reduction in that portion of the unfunded debt which is in the hands of the public; and I conceive that we may carry that arrangement to the extent of two or three millions. In order, therefore, to effect these two purposes, I propose to fund, in the course of the present session, Exchequer bills to the amount of eight or nine millions. At the same time, I can see no reason why, after the present year, when the Sinking Fund shall have been relieved from the payment of that portion of the unfunded debt which is now charged upon it, it should not be made

applicable to the reduction generally of the unfunded, as well as of the funded debt. Parliament has already so connected the two descriptions of debt with the Sinking Fund, as to render such an application of it quite consistent with the principle of its formation. I have thus endeavoured to state the circumstances under which our revenue stands at present. I am not afraid or ashamed to use the word "prosperous." I say, that a nation may safely be termed prosperous, when, combining within itself all the great elements of wealth and power, it finds the legislature and the government striving, with a generous emulation, to promote the development of the national resources, by correcting what is defective, removing what is obstructive, and giving life and scope to what is active. I see the foreign policy of this country confirming and extending that just and independent influence amongst other nations, which the fair dealing, the honesty, and the prudence of England have heretofore entitled and enabled her to maintain. I see, year after year, the most vigilant attention paid to all practicable improvements in the construction and administration of the laws; whereby, whilst the liberty of the subject is never overlooked, justice is rendered more intelligible to those by whom it is dispensed, and more satisfactory, as well as accessible, to those for whose benefit its dispensation is intended. I see the commercial policy of the country adapted to more enlightened views, and every amendment of the system pursued with a spirit and a perseverance worthy of so good a cause, and essential to its final success. I see, that in the management of our finances, the ruling principle is, to combine a due provision for what the honour, the dignity, and the safety of the country require, with a

just circumscription of unnecessary patronage, and a well-considered reduction of excessive taxation. I see all these useful measures suggested, enforced, and sanctioned by the deliberate, and I might almost say the unanimous, voice of Parliament: and when, in addition to all this, I see that, as respects the people at large, the light of knowledge and of reason is gradually dispelling the mists of ignorance and of prejudice, and opening their minds to a discriminating appreciation of what ought to be the conduct of those to whose care their interests are confided—am I using the language of exaggeration and over confidence, when I say, that the affairs of this kingdom are in a right and prosperous course? There may still be many difficulties to meet us on our way. We may have to undergo, as we recently have experienced, the sudden violence of the unexpected tempest;—we may have at times to encounter “the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune;”—but, sir, if we have only resolution and constancy enough—

“To take up arms against that sea of troubles,

And by opposing—end them;”—

if we pursue our path with steadiness and fidelity, we shall find our dangers and our difficulties diminishing with our progress; and we shall advance with systematic regularity towards the great end of all good government—the happiness and well-being of the people.

Mr Maberly said the right hon. gentleman had taken his estimate from 1816, and quoted that year as instancing the diminution of the charge of debt, as compared with last year. But that was by no means a fair estimate, as, in 1823, a charge of 2,000,000*l.* was made upon the debt. Instead of a decrease, upon a fair

computation, it would be found that there was an increase, taking 1819 and 1826 as the years of instituting a comparison. He proceeded to contend, that compared with later years the amount of our debt had been increased instead of diminished. As to the estimate of revenue for this year, he should be most glad to coincide with the right hon. gentleman, but he was afraid the calculation had not been made on sufficiently certain data. As to the reduction of the unfunded debt, he did not object to it; but a more favourable moment might have been selected.

Mr Hume objected to the mode in which the right honourable gentleman had made his calculations. Though so much had been talked about the reduction of taxes, there was more money taken from the pockets of the people within the last three years, than there had been within the three preceding. He would repeat his assertion, and prove it. He would not follow the right honourable gentleman back to 1816; but he would take the returns of revenue of the years 1817, 1818, and 1819. By those returns it appeared that the amount of revenue was—in 1817, 51,000,000*l.*; in 1818, 52,000,000*l.*; and in 1819, 51,000,000*l.* In the last three years, the amount of revenue was—in 1823, 52,561,000*l.*; in 1824, 52,685,000*l.*; and in 1825, 52,044,000*l.*; thus making an average increase of 1,000,000*l.* and nearly 40,000*l.* per year. So that in the eleventh year of a peace, we found ourselves in the actual payment of a progressively increasing taxation. Taking a review of the last seven years, it would be found that we had to pay, by the transactions between the government and the Bank, and in a variety of ways, fully fifteen millions more of charge really imposed upon the country, than in any of the preceding seven years. The right ho-

nourable gentleman had referred to the amount of consumption in 1816 and 1825, to establish that there was an increase in the quantity of consumption. He would take a period of ten years, as furnishing a sufficient space of time whereon to ground a fair estimate, to show, that the consumption of malt, and beer, and tea, and several other articles on which they were told that a large increase had taken place, had diminished; taking, as they were bound to do, the increase of the population into consideration. It was not a little remarkable, respecting the consumption of malt, that, taking the period between 1788 and 1792, and a similar period preceding 1825, the consumption in the former period was greater, although the population of England had, since the former period, at least increased to forty per cent. Sugar also, notwithstanding the statement put forth by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had decreased. As to tea, on which an increase had been stated of 20 per cent, every one knew that the consumption of tea for the last twenty years had been stationary. In short, no part of the statement of the right honourable gentleman was fairly supported by the returns laid upon the table of the House. The right honourable gentleman had stated that the public had saved much by not funding exchequer bills a few years ago. Last year the government might have funded their Exchequer bills with the funds at 97. They will now have to fund at a loss of 20 per cent, which they might have avoided. This loss would be equal to the amount of the assessed taxes for one year. The right honourable gentleman had taken credit for the reduction of the Scotch Customs and Excise boards, but he (Mr Hume) wished that the right hon. gentleman, instead of boasting of the past, had informed the House

how the country was to go on. Between four and five millions were annually extracted from this country, on account of Ireland. He believed that all the upper classes in the employ of government were over-paid, whilst the under classes were very much under-paid. In proportion as the national debt decreased, the government augmented the establishments and expenditure of the country.

Sir J. Newport said, that he thought that the country was greatly indebted to the right honourable gentlemen (the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr Huskisson) for the measures which they had adopted since they had been in office.

Mr Baring thought that, whilst the country was filled with bubble fortunes, there must be a bubble revenue; but on the whole, he had never heard a speech which had given him more satisfaction than that of the right honourable gentleman.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in explanation, observed, that although he could not calculate upon so much as 400,000*l.* or 500,000*l.* yet the increase, next year, would no doubt be considerable.

Sir Charles Forbes hoped that if the right honourable gentleman persisted in interfering with the Scotch system of banking, the Scotch members would do their duty, taking a pattern from the members for the sister country, and stick together. He would oppose such a project night after night; and if only one member would stand by him, he pledged himself to defeat the measure.

Mr Ellice would put it to the honourable baronet why, when a bill had been prepared for the regulation of bankers, it should not be extended to those of Scotland? If there had been any such thing as overtrading, the Scotch bankers had been guilty of it, and this he pledged himself to

prove, if occasion offered. As he was upon his legs, he would beg to ask the right honourable gentleman (Mr Huskisson) with respect to the tax on soap, whether any relief was intended to be afforded to the silk trade in that particular?

Mr Huskisson, in answer, stated, that it was intended that the relief to be afforded to the silk trade, was the same as that afforded to the woollen trade—namely, a drawback on the quantity of soap consumed. As to the duty on dye-drugs, he would be glad if the honourable member would say upon what articles the duty could be reduced. He thought that the statements of the honourable member (Mr Maberly) were calculated to obscure the very clear and satisfactory statement of his right honourable friend. According to the honourable gentleman, the debt, capital as well as charge, had increased since 1819. It was a common observation, that by means of figures any result could be gained; and certainly the honourable gentleman had demonstrated the truth of it. The House would be surprised to learn, that by an account moved for by the honourable member, and now on the table, it was made to appear, that between 1824 and 1825, the debt of the country had increased 70,000,000*l.*, and the charge 20,000,000*l.* This was an entire misconception—a fallacy which the form of the account moved for by the honourable member, tended to produce.—An honourable member (Mr Hume) said that the country paid more taxes now than in 1816; but in proportion as taxes were reduced, consumption was increased, and consequently the aggregate amount of the taxes.

On the motion that the usual 4*s.* in the pound upon all pensions, offices, &c. should be voted, the resolution was put and carried, after some slight opposition by Mr Hume.

Friday, March 10.—The order of the day for the House resolving itself into a committee of supply, was read. On the question that the Speaker do now leave the chair,

Mr Maberly said that, the government had, in concert with the Bank of England, added greatly to the existing causes of distress. He felt it to be his duty to point out where the great error in their conduct lay. The statement he had to make he should divide into two parts. The first would relate to the mismanagement of the unfunded debt, and the latter to the misarrangement and mismanagement of the funded debt; both of which had, in his opinion, added greatly to the inconveniences of the country. Beginning with the manner in which government had managed the issue of Exchequer bills, the honourable gentleman made a number of observations, and stated, that upon that subject he would read the resolutions he meant to propose:—

“That it appears by returns to the House, that on the 6th of Jan. 1826, the amount of Exchequer bills outstanding and unpaid was 37,502,017*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*; that on or about the 20th of December they were at a discount of 80*s.*, and that it therefore became necessary to raise the interest previously granted on them, in order to prevent their being paid into the Exchequer as revenue, or a part of them being demanded in cash. And that, notwithstanding this advance of the rate of interest on Exchequer bills, it became necessary to relieve the market by reducing the quantity on sale, which was effected by means of a large portion of them being absorbed in purchases made by the Bank, which brought them to about par at the end of the month.

“That on the 14th of February they were again at or about 21*s.* per cent discount, when the Bank came

once more into the market, and brought them to par.

“That the Bank, from various circumstances, might not have been able thus to relieve the market without endangering its credit: yet, had not relief been afforded, bills paid in as revenue might have left the Exchequer without any means of paying the dividends, provided the Bank could not advance the whole amount of them.

“That the Bank, in order to pay the Jan. dividends, having already advanced 5,548,817*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*, it was highly improbable that it could at such a moment make a further advance of 3,128,183*l.* (the additional sum necessary) without placing itself in a most hazardous situation: and it appears, therefore, that although the prompt relief in the purchase of Exchequer bills given by the Bank did at the moment avert these calamitous consequences, still the danger of having such a large unfunded debt becomes strikingly obvious, by the bank being obliged a few days since to come into the market a second time to prevent a further depreciation of them.

“That, notwithstanding the low rate of interest which has been paid on Exchequer bills, it has been both inexpedient and dangerous to leave so large an amount of debt unfunded; not only for the reasons stated in the foregoing resolution, but because it might have been funded on most advantageous terms, and at a saving of some millions to the country, whilst by leaving it unfunded until a period of political difficulty arrives, it cannot fail seriously to affect public credit, and to impair the energies of the country; and that it appears therefore to this House, that it is highly expedient to reduce the unfunded debt within more reasonable limits.”

He now came to the mismanagement which had prevailed in the fund-

ed debt; his comments upon which he concluded by reading his other resolutions:—

“That although, by a vote of this house, 5,000,000*l.* were declared necessary as a sinking fund to uphold public credit by diminishing the national debt, yet, in the course of a very few days after that declaration, the House came to a determination of granting an annuity of 2,800,000*l.* for 45 years, thereby increasing the public debt many millions (by return to the House, March 1826, 74,632,051*l.*), and at the same time violating the very principle which it had declared to be the only one by which public credit could be supported.

“That part of the said annuity, amounting to 585,740*l.*, for 44 years, was sold to the Bank of England for 13,089,424*l.*, payable by instalments, the last of which falls due in July, 1828, and part, amounting to 2,214,200*l.*, still remains unsold, to the value of nearly 50,000,000*l.*; and that, under present circumstances, it will be expedient to sell the remaining part of the said annuity, and that it will be expedient to repeal so much of the act granting the said annuity as relates to the part unsold, and to charge the amount necessary to defray the naval and military pensions from July 1828, on the consolidated or sinking fund.

“That the capital of the funded unredeemed debt of the United Kingdom stood in the finance accounts of the 5th of January, 1825, at 781,123,222*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*; whereas the real capital debt of the country approaches to nearly 900,000,000*l.*, inasmuch as the capital of the terminable annuities is not included in the above sum.”

Mr Herries.—The hon. member had accused the government of confusion in making up the accounts of

the funded debt. The confusion existed only in the ideas of the hon. member, and greater confusion than prevailed there he had never known. The hon. member, some time ago, called for a paper, to show the state of the funded debt, which the House ordered to be produced. The hon. member had directed, that in that paper an estimate should be made of the total value of the annuity of 2,800,000*l.* set apart for providing for the charge of the military half-pay. This estimate was set down under last year's head alone; and the consequence was, that in that year, as compared with former years, there appeared an enormous difference in the amount of the funded debt. Upon this mistake, created by the hon. member himself, he had raised his argument. The hon. member had charged the government with not having effected the reduction of the national debt. He begged to call the attention of the House to this subject. The bullion committee of 1819 recommended that the unfunded debt should be reduced to the extent of 10,000,000*l.*; and government had not only complied with that recommendation, but gone beyond it. It had discharged upwards of 13,000,000*l.* of the unfunded debt. That debt was divided into two parts. One part, consisting of Exchequer bills, was called the unprovided debt; and the other part, existing by anticipation of the funds, by which at a limited period it was to be discharged, was called the provided debt. When he spoke of the reduction of the unfunded debt, it would be understood that he alluded only to that part of it which was unprovided. To the unprovided debt no addition had been made since the date of the report of the bullion committee; on the contrary, it had been made the subject of gradual reduction. On the 5th of

January, 1819, the unprovided debt stood at 19,480,000*l.*; on the 5th of January, 1826, it stood at 6,139,000*l.* The question raised by the hon. member was this—whether it would have been wiser for ministers to have funded the Exchequer bills, or raised money to pay them off, or to have adopted those measures which had relieved the country from a portion of taxation, and enabled us to enter upon a more liberal system of commercial policy? It was impossible that government could have adopted both plans. They could not row two ways at once. During the last few years Exchequer bills had been at a premium. It was true that these securities had recently suffered a depreciation; but it was impossible that government could anticipate the late convulsion. The whole amount of unfunded debt at present outstanding in the hands of the Bank and the public, might be called 30,500,000*l.* On the 5th of January, 1819, it was about 44,000,000*l.* With respect to all that the hon. member had said about the embarrassment of the Bank, owing to their transactions with government, he was sure it was completely fallacious.

Mr Baring.—As to the question, whether the unfunded debt was or was not too great, it would have been a wise measure on the part of government, when the stocks were at 95, to fund a portion of this debt. Every debt the government was liable to pay, they should then have paid. No explanation had been given by the hon. member (Mr Herries) of the difficulties of the Bank. The story told by the Bank was—that during the bubble period they had a circulation of 21,000,000*l.* on an average. The exchanges going up, the Bank took fright, and in three months brought down their circulation to 17,400,000*l.* When they found the

measure unbearable, the Bank then came forward. Some might say, that the government were in fault, and others might lay the blame on the Bank; but no man who understood the subject would hesitate to say that between them the blame rested.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that as to the transactions of the last three years, the hon. member (Mr Baring) had unfairly represented them. In 1823, when the hon. member said the government should have funded, the three per cents were not ranging between 90 and 100, but had been so low as 72. The hon. member had stated that no attempt was made to reduce the unfunded debt in 1824; this he denied. When the unfunded portion of the debt was at a high premium, funding was not an easy operation. When the securities were at a premium of 60s., people would not part with them without some advantage being offered. It would, besides, have been inconsistent in 1824 to fund a mass of exchequer bills, whilst government was reducing the four per cents.

Mr Hume said, that if he (Mr Hume) personally calculating the full extent and value of all he owed in the world in the year 1819, found it amount to 20,000*l.*, and, after applying a sinking fund for six years to liquidate it—viz. up to the year 1825—found it then amount to 22,000*l.*; the inference, which it would be rather difficult to get over, would be, that he had lost 2000*l.* by his liquidating operation. On the 5th January, 1819, the value of the whole debt of the country, as valued by the public accountant, amounted, in present money, to 832,000,000*l.* That sum, in currency, would have cleared the kingdom from the principal debt, and the yearly amount of interest paid was 29,000,000*l.* Now, what was our situation when our sinking fund

had been seven years at work, in 1826? Why, we had an increase of revenue over expenditure to the extent of 19,000,000*l.*; this was exclusive of a sum of 500,000*l.* received from the East India Company, and another sum from Austria of more than 2,000,000*l.*, and yet the value of the whole amount of our debt was now 893,700,000*l.*, being an increase, as regarded principal, of 61,7000*l.*; and the interest which we paid was increased by about 31,000*l.* a-year. Then where was our surplus of revenue, 19,000,000*l.*? Where was the money that had been borrowed? It was all lost. These were the advantages and bounties of the sinking fund. In 1822, a loan had been contracted for with the Bank of 13,000,000*l.*, in which we had given 100*l.* 3 per cent stock, for every 73*l.* 5*s.* in money that we received. What followed? The commissioners of the sinking fund carried this 73*l.* 5*s.* into the market, and bought stock, paying 90*l.*, 95*l.*, and even 100*l.*, for that which we had sold for the 73*l.* 5*s.* Here was a loss of no less than 15*l.* per cent upon the average upon the sum paid up, which was 8,000,000*l.* He now came to the manner in which the unfunded debt of the country was managed, which was just as satisfactory as the rest. The right hon. gentleman made much of the mischief which the issues of the Bank paper had done to the country—how came it that they said nothing of their own excessive issues of Exchequer bills, which had done ten times more towards deranging the money-market, and producing the causes which had led to the late distress? In 1817, they had had 49,000,000*l.* of Exchequer bills out; in 1818, they had issued 12,000,000*l.* more, making 61,000,000*l.* If the issues of bank paper had raised prices through the country, what must have been the effect of such an issue as this? In 1819, the Exchequer bills out had

been 48,000,000*l.* 14,000,000*l.* having been paid off.

Mr Maberly declined pressing a division, and the resolutions were negatived.

On Monday, April 17, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a committee of ways and means, rose to propose certain resolutions respecting the funding of Exchequer bills, a measure which had been adopted by ministers for the purpose of relieving the Bank from a portion of the advances which had been made to government, and of diminishing the amount of Exchequer bills in the market. Government had sent a message to the Bank, explaining that it was intended to fund Exchequer bills, by creating a new stock, which should yield 4 per cent, fixing the amount of stock at 107*l.* for each subscription of 100*l.* Exchequer bills, or 100*l.* 10*s.* cash; and it was farther proposed, in order to make the proposition more acceptable, that the stock should not be redeemable in less than seven years. In consequence of this measure, books were opened at the Bank on Wednesday last, and it was fixed that the interest should commence on the 5th of April current, and that the first payment should be made on the 10th of October next. The total amount proposed to be subscribed for was 8,000,000*l.* He was happy to state that the measure had been most successful; 8,000,000*l.* or nearer 9,000,000*l.*, had been purchased. All that remained now was, to state the charges which would be created by this funding of Exchequer bills, and to propose the resolutions which he meant to submit to the House. The addition thus made to the funded debt would be 8,560,000*l.*, the interest on which would amount to the annual sum of 342,400*l.*; the addition of the sinking fund would be 5600*l.*, not upon the stock created, as the only sinking fund necessary would be 1 per cent upon the funding and capital created,

making a total of 350,368*l.*, including 2368*l.* for the management of the concern. The two sums of 5600*l.* and the 2368*l.* he did not mean to meet by levying a new tax, but he proposed to place it to the account of the consolidated fund. The right hon. gentleman concluded by moving several resolutions, which merely repeated the condition of the subscription.

The resolutions were put and agreed to.

Mr Grenfell rose to move for accounts, first of the balances of public money in the hands of the Bank of England, and next of the charges for the management of the public debt, and other services performed by the Bank for the public. He remembered that at one time the average amount of the public balance lodged in the Bank for current use, amounted, for 10 or 12 years, to no less a sum than 11,000,000*l.* or 12,000,000*l.* a-year. Of late years, this amount had considerably decreased. In 1821 it was diminished to 3,900,000*l.* In 1822, it rose again to between four and five millions; in 1823, to between five and six; in 1824, it had advanced to above seven millions. It was right to call attention to this circumstance, for, when the expiration of the bank charter arrived, it would be for the government to consider what bargain it would renew for the transaction of the public business with the present Bank, (for he thought it would still be preferable to deal with them;) or whether a second bank on a large scale would agree to give the public a large participation in the profits arising from heavy balances in hand, and take such a sum as 10 or 20,000*l.* a-year for the management of the national business. Let them consider how the public cash account stood at the Bank of England. The Bank had advanced 15,000,000*l.* the whole of its capital, to the public, at 3 per cent interest, and this large premium they were re-

ceiving for the year 1824, while they actually were holders of nearly seven millions and a half of the money of that same public. Surely there ought to be a balance of mutual profit struck under circumstances like these. The next subject that he wished to refer to was the allowance made by the public to the Bank for the management of the public debt; the trouble of this management consisted in the daily transfer of stock, and the payment of the annual dividends. When the char-

ter should expire, he hoped this matter would also be taken into the consideration of government before they renewed the contract; indeed, on an equitable revision of this part of the bargain, the public ought to save 250,000*l.* a-year—He concluded by moving for the returns.

After a few observations by Mr Pearse, Mr Hume, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the motion was agreed to.

CHAPTER IV

King and Royal Family.—Salary of the President of the Board of Trade.—Army Estimates—Ordnance Estimates.—Mr Hobhouse's Motion to reduce the Estimates.—Mutiny Bill.—Half-Pay, and Pensions.—Navy Estimates.

It is essential to a popular government that jealousy should be felt by the people's representatives regarding the expenditure of the public money ; but under our government, never does this jealousy appear more active and unreasonable than when propositions are brought forward having in view the accommodation or the dignity of the royal family. Of the principle we have alluded to—the constitutionality of which we have no disposition to condemn, Mr Hume, from his indefatigable habits of scrutinizing the public accounts, and opposing public grants, may be considered the very personification ; and he would have been acting out of character, had he not been at his post to oppose the very small grants of 38,000*l.* and 70,000*l.* which were moved for, in a Committee of Supply of the House of Commons, on 13th March, to meet the expense of repairs on Buckingham House and Windsor Castle.

Mr Hume wished to know from what source the expense of the alterations now going on at Buckingham-house was to be paid ?

Mr Herries said that the charges were to be defrayed, as the House was

aware, from the surplus revenue of the woods and forests.

Mr Hume wished to know what the whole expense would be ?

Mr Herries was not prepared immediately to state the amount, but the question had been discussed generally in the last session.

Mr Hume said, that the surplus of the woods and forests was part of the public revenue—just as much as the customs or excise ; and no part of the public revenue ought to be disposed of without an estimate laid before parliament. With reference to the bill of the last session, he certainly had understood that the House was to be called upon to vote the money required for these alterations from year to year. Would there be any objection to the furnishing an estimate of all the further expense which the country was likely to be put to on account of Buckingham-house and Windsor ?

On the first of these grants being moved for,

Sir C. Long said, that such an estimate could be given if the hon. member thought fit to move for it.

Mr Ellice thought that the House and the country would be much better

informed of what was going on, if the surplus revenue of the woods and forests was regularly brought to account, and the money for these works regularly voted.

Mr Huskisson said, that, according to the existing act of parliament, triennial accounts of expenditure must be rendered. As he took it, the whole matter had been fully explained in the discussions of last session. The expense of each year was not to go beyond the year's surplus on the revenue of the woods and forests.

On the vote of 70,000*l.* for repairs and works at Windsor Castle,

Mr Hume again urged the necessity of furnishing parliament with proper estimates of the charges incurred, and the money wanted to complete the work.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer admitted that the expense had exceeded the estimate considerably. But it was impossible that any correct estimate could have been formed.

Lord J. Russell thought that the House ought in the first instance, according to the suggestion of his hon. friends about him, to have had clear and satisfactory estimates produced.

Sir C. Long felt quite certain that the expenses ultimately would not exceed 300,000*l.*, which was the sum first named by his right hon. friend.

Mr George Lamb did not object to the money which had been thus expended; and if more were wanted for the completion of that royal residence he would cheerfully vote that it should be granted.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer continued.—A purchase had been made of private property to the amount of 16,000*l.* to carry on the works. It would be for the pleasure of parliament to say, whether they would continue the improvements which were now prosecuting at Windsor Castle. Great advantage would arise to the underta-

king by the removal of several old buildings, which now detracted from the beauty of the Castle; but it would depend upon parliament to grant the necessary funds.

Mr Hume considered that for all the use that would be made of Windsor Castle, it might have remained as before. The country would be drained by these grants.

The vote was then carried.

Mr Hume was much more successful in resisting a proposition brought forward by the Chancellor of the Exchequer for raising the salary of the President of the Board of Trade to 5000*l.*, though he continued to hold the office of Treasurer of the Navy at a salary of 3000*l.* The proposition was, in no point of view, of much real importance, but an extraordinary ideal importance happened to be attached to it by the country. It rested, in our judgment, upon the grounds of substantial justice; but by the public, it was felt to be indecorous in ministers to make an attempt to increase the salary of one of their number, at a time when all classes were groaning under a load of unexampled distress; and the measure, besides, was calculated to disturb the confidence which the public had been induced to repose in the economical professions of the government. The measure, during the first stages of its progress, was supported by a great majority; but, at length the minority became powerful, and so well was it understood to represent the sense of the country, that ministers agreed to abandon the measure.

It was first brought forward on the 6th of April, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a Committee of the House of Commons upon the Civil List Act.

The right hon. gentleman said, that in rising to move a resolution regarding the salary of the President of the

Board of Trade, he thought it necessary to observe, that the state of that office had not alone been considered defective by colleagues in office on that side of the House, but had actually, on several occasions, drawn forth observations from the gentlemen opposite, many of whom, during the last session, had repeatedly given utterance to an opinion that the salary of the right hon. gentleman (Mr Huskisson) was totally incompatible with the duties which it became necessary for him to perform. Prior to the year 1782, all matters connected with the trade and commerce of the country had been managed by a board composed of various members of the government. After having been for a time subjected to the lash of Mr Burke's ridicule and invective at that period, the Board was finally abolished. It was soon found, however, that in this country commerce affected such a variety of interests, as to render it impossible that it could be safely left without some superintendence more particularly devoted to its peculiar objects; and, in consequence, about the year 1784, the concerns of trade and commerce were intrusted to a committee of the Privy Council, under the direction of a president and vice-president. As nothing could be more absurd than the paying of an office without any reference to the sort of mind and character required to perform its duties, he conceived it would be both just and proper to apply to the Presidency of the Board of Trade the same scale of allowance which had been thought fit for the Vice-Presidency on a former occasion; and considering the salary of that office, and the labour of body and mind required from the person upon whom its various and important duties devolved, he thought that 5000*l.* a-year was no more than what might be considered a fair compensation for his labours.

To the arduous nature of those duties, he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) could, from experience, bear ample testimony; and he would now venture to declare, that however arduous he might have found those duties, they must have since become of a nature which would require a devotion both of bodily and mental powers, not repaid too largely by the sum he now proposed. It would be very bad taste in him to attempt to pronounce any flourishing panegyric upon his right hon. friend: but he would take leave to assert, that no man ever brought to that, or any other office, greater zeal and devotion—no man ever brought greater assiduity to all the various details of his duty—none a more comprehensive intellect—none a more resolute mind—and none ever had discharged all the functions of his office with more real benefit to his country.

Mr Hume said, he had no objection to give the right hon. President of the Board of Trade the addition proposed, while he continued to hold that situation; but he begged to know, whether it was the intention of ministers that the right hon. gentleman should continue to receive 3000*l.* as Treasurer of the Navy, or whether it was their intention to reduce the expense of that sinecure office by joining it with some other? In looking over the act of the 22d Geo. III. cap. 82, by which the Board of Trade was created, he observed that the preamble of the bill began with a "Whereas it is expedient to carry into effect the new economical plan which has been recommended for various public offices:" now he wished to know whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer, before he made his proposal to the House, had read this preamble?

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that in reply to the question of the hon. gentleman with respect to the office of Treasurer of the Navy,

he could say, with sincerity, that no intention of uniting the two offices ever entered into his mind, or that of his right hon. friend.—His right hon. friend had been at one time agent, he believed, to Ceylon, but he gave that up after his appointment to his present office, and he did not hold now any other situation except the Treasurership of the Navy. It was certainly the intention of ministers to bestow that office on some other person with its present income, with the single exception of a house at the public expense. He could not by any means allow that the office was a sinecure. When he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) held it in the year 1818, the salary had been reduced from 4000*l.* a-year to 3000*l.*; but certainly not on account of its duties being considered nominal.

Mr Calcraft thought no person more able, or more zealous in the discharge of his high duties than the right hon. President of the Board of Trade. He had no objection to the grant of 5000*l.* but he was opposed to the mode in which the grant was to be made. By it they were creating a new office for the disposal of government. The right hon. gentleman had now 3000*l.* a-year as Treasurer of the Navy; he would give him 2000*l.* as President of the Board of Trade; and thus he would have 5000*l.* a-year, at an expense to the country of 2000*l.* a-year. The duties of the Treasurer of the Navy had nothing in them incompatible with the duties of the President of the Board of Trade. Mr Dundas, when he was Secretary of War, was also Treasurer of the Navy; and a Speaker of the House of Commons had held the same office.

Mr Robertson begged to call the attention of the House to the charter which had been last year granted by the President of the Board of Trade, to incorporate a certain silk company.

At the head of that company stood the name of Mr Baring; and he (Mr Robertson) could not but remark it as a very singular coincidence, that early in the month of June, 1825, a short time after the charter had been granted, Mr Baring rose up in his place to propose an increase to the salary of the President of the Board of Trade. The hon. member (Mr Baring) on another occasion had proposed remuneration to the same individual; and he (Mr Robertson) could not but think that there must have been some secret understanding between the parties. He could not agree in the propriety of granting an increase to the President of the Board of Trade, under the circumstances which he had stated. He knew of no measure adopted by that right honourable gentleman for the good of the country, that had not originated with the other side of the House.

Mr Baring could assure the hon. gentleman that he had totally mistaken his motives in moving for an increase of salary to the right hon. the President of the Board of Trade. He certainly had voted for that increase from a conviction that it was called for, and in giving his support to the present measure, his opinion as to its justice and expediency was unaltered. He would go even further, and state, that there never was a vote more justly called for. With respect to the allusion which had been made to the company of which he had become a member, he had never in his life spoken a word on the subject of the company to the right hon. gentleman (Mr Huskisson), and he could not but express his surprise that the hon. gentleman (Mr Robertson) should have thought fit to advance so unwarrantable a statement.

Mr Peel said, that if the charges brought forward by the hon. member (Mr Robertson) were confined

within the walls of the House, he would not have thought it necessary to notice them, and, in the name of his right hon. friend, to repel them, as he now did. His right hon. friend had lent his name to the silk company nominally, because he thought that by so doing he might forward the concern; but if the whole wealth of India could have been gained by lending himself to any company, his right hon. friend would spurn the offer. He (Mr Peel) wondered that the hon. gentleman who had uttered those charges, did not feel ashamed of the part which he acted. He hoped that the House would agree in the present motion, and that there would be no want of unanimity in passing a vote which was founded in justice. He could not see why the offices should be connected, and he thought that their respective duties would be best performed by placing them in separate hands.

Mr Maberly entirely concurred in the view taken of the question before the House by the right hon. gentleman who had just sat down.

Mr Calcraft repeated, that he would certainly oppose the present vote, unless he received some pledge that the Treasurership of the Navy would be modified, and the business done, as it might be, by the Paymaster.

Mr T. Wilson considered that the present was not the time for taxing the country for an increase of official salary.

Mr Hume moved as an amendment, that 5000*l.* a-year be the salary of the President of the Board of Trade, but with this accompanying qualification,—that it be expedient to inquire whether any of the existing offices could be abolished to save and make up the above amount of salary. He could point out many offices from which the saving might be made.

Mr R. Smith proposed to limit the

amendment to the office of Treasurer of the Navy.

Mr Ellice hoped his hon. friend would withdraw his amendment, or allow the inquiry to be limited as proposed. It would then be, “that the sum of 5000*l.* a-year be given as the salary of the President of the Board of Trade, but that inquiry should be made whether the office of Treasurer of the Navy could not be modified or abolished.”

Mr Hume would not withdraw his amendment until the House pronounced an opinion on the original motion.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer thought that the question before the committee had no connexion with that of any other office. However, he would not object to postponing the farther consideration of this subject till to-morrow.

After a few words from Mr R. Smith, the Chairman reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again to-morrow.

On the following day, the House having resolved itself into a committee of the whole House,

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that if he could persuade himself that the office of Treasurer of the Navy was a sinecure, he would readily consent to its abolition, and provide for the increased salary of the President of the Board of Trade out of the saving thus made. As to the duties of the office, he had held it, and he could assure the committee that it was very far from a sinecure. If the duties and responsibility of the Treasurer were thrown upon the Paymaster, who had only 1000*l.* a-year, he did not think that those duties would be efficiently performed. He did not mean to assert that those duties were such as occasioned great bodily labour or mental anxiety, but still the responsibility was great. For-

merly, the Treasurer was in the receipt of large sums from profits on the money which was allowed to be in his hands; but, subsequently, those profits were taken away, and a salary of 4000*l.* a-year allowed instead. The committee of finance, in 1817, recommended that the office of Treasurer of the Navy should be assimilated in point of salary to that of the Paymaster-General of the Forces. Formerly, that office was divided between two persons, each of whom had a salary of 2000*l.* a-year: afterwards, by the recommendation of the committee of finance, the second Paymastership was abolished, and a salary of 2000*l.* a-year, with a residence and some small emoluments added, which made it worth about 2500*l.* a-year. The committee recommended a similar establishment for the Treasurer of the Navy; but at the same time it was understood, that if that office were held along with another of public and active employment to which no salary was attached, it should continue to yield the full salary. When he got it, the salary was only 3000*l.* a-year, which was 1000*l.* less than any of his predecessors in the office had received. Now he would admit, that if the two offices—that of Treasurer of the Navy and that of President of the Board of Trade—were disconnected, there was no reason why the former should not be put upon the salary recommended by the committee of finance; but as the present residence attached to it might more advantageously for the dispatch of public business be applied to other uses, and as that, with coals and candles allowed, might be estimated at about 700*l.* a-year, he would add 500*l.* a-year to the 2000*l.*, thus bringing it on a level with the office of Paymaster-General of the Forces. He would conclude by repeating what he said last night—that

there was no necessary connexion between the regulation of the office of Treasurer of the Navy and the vote before the committee.

Mr Tierney wished that the vote before the committee should pass unanimously, in order to express the sense which was entertained on all sides of the great ability with which the right hon. gentleman (Mr Huskisson) had discharged the important duties of his office. He could by no means concur with those who thought that the office of Treasurer of the Navy should be abolished. It was an office of very old standing, of considerable public importance, and of great personal responsibility to the holder. He had held the office, and speaking from the recollection of twenty-three years back, he could assure the committee that it was by no means a sinecure. On the contrary, it was one which required no inconsiderable degree of care and attention, though perhaps the business to be done might be gone through by one hour's application every day. Instead of making the two offices separate, he would suggest that 2000*l.* a-year should be added to the salary of Treasurer of the Navy, when that office was held by the President of the Board of Trade. He thought the duties of the two could be efficiently performed by the right hon. gentleman who at present held them.

Mr Huskisson said, that in the peculiar situation in which he was placed, it could not be expected that he should offer any opinion, as to the amount of compensation which should be given to the holder of the offices which he had the honour to fill. After what had been said by his right hon. friend near him and his right hon. friend who had just sat down, it would be unnecessary for him to enter into any detail of the duties of the office of Treasurer of the Navy.

He would, however, remark that those duties had been very considerably increased by the attention required to seamen's wills. Gentlemen who supposed that the office of Treasurer was a mere banking concern, were very much mistaken. It was one of great responsibility and anxiety, and consistently with his other employments, he could not give to it that strict attention which was requisite for an adequate performance of its duties. With respect to the situation of President of the Board of Trade, he had exerted himself to the utmost of his abilities, to render himself useful, and to give satisfaction to the country at large.—In concluding his observations, the right hon. gentleman left the question entirely to the House. The measure was not of his seeking; and in whatever manner the committee should be inclined to dispose of it, he would be satisfied with their decision.

Mr Calcraft observed, that the right hon. gentlemen opposite had a peculiar talent of magnifying the importance of their respective offices. He apprehended, however, that neither the Chancellor of the Exchequer nor the noble earl at the head of his Majesty's councils, were ever obliged to beat up for recruits, and to offer a bounty for the acceptance of a place. He contended that one of the main motives which influenced government in bringing forward the present question was to throw additional patronage into their hands, and secure another member to fill their own ranks. If the House was of his opinion, they would be cautious how they admitted another placeman within the walls of parliament. This was not the time to add to the pecuniary burdens of the public, for the sake of diminishing the official burdens of the servants of the public. It was idle to contend that the two

offices could not be managed by the same individual. The Chancellor of the Exchequer boasted that he had given up a lord of the treasury, in order to prove further his desire to reduce the national expenditure; but he had forgotten that the lord of the treasury had not been thrown overboard by the rest of the crew until they had been defeated on the question respecting the supernumerary lords of the Admiralty.

Sir I. Coffin said, that having held the situation of Treasurer of the Navy for some years, he did not by any means look upon the situation as a sinecure.

Mr Denison.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer had stated, that while he had filled the office of President of the Board of Trade, he had been responsible for a sum of 35,000*l.*, which had been lost owing to the defalcations of two subordinate individuals. He begged to ask if that sum had ever been refunded by the right hon. gentleman?

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that the principal sum made away with amounted to something about 30,000*l.*, but government, having learned the route of the defaulter, were fortunate enough to catch him in America. They could not make him a prisoner in that country, but after some threats 15,000*l.* or 16,000*l.* were refunded, and his securities were obliged to pay largely; but, notwithstanding, the public lost by the transaction. About 6000*l.* was the sum which the other defaulter made away with, but nearly the entire amount was recovered from his securities.

Mr Abercrombie expressed his regret that this proposition had been brought forward, as he had the most sincere respect for the right hon. gentleman, and a high sense of his services to the public; and it was distressing, that this salary should be

proposed in a shape which compelled him and others to oppose it on public grounds. It was unfortunate, that the popularity which the President of the Board of Trade had so justly acquired in the discharge of his duties to the public, should be exposed to so much risk by a proposition like this. A great deal had been said about the incompatibility of the office of President of the Board of Trade with that of Treasurer of the Navy. From all that he had heard about the matter, it appeared to him that there was no incompatibility between them, and that both offices might be held and adequately managed by one person. They had the advantage of experience on the subject. Lord Melville had held the office of Treasurer of the Navy along with that of Secretary of State. To be sure, Lord Melville had the services of his right hon. friend as his under Secretary; but then the President of the Board of Trade had the assistance of the Vice-President. The object, in short, appeared to be to make a separate Treasurer of the Navy, in order to get another placeman's vote in parliament. It would be the duty of the House, to take care that the influence of the Crown, already too great, should not be increased by the admission of another government officer into parliament. There was a Vice-Treasurer of Ireland, who had nothing to do in that country but to sign his name to some papers, and therefore that officer took care to attend parliament in this country, while this Vice-Treasurer had another Vice in Ireland. There was another office that might be united with that of President of the Board of Trade—he meant the office of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; and why should not the salary of that office be increased so as to afford ample remunera-

tion to the President of the Board of Trade?

Sir John Newport.—There was only one opinion as to the merit of the President of the Board of Trade, and it was distressing to force the House to oppose this resolution, which they could not support without a violation of their public duty.

Mr Canning.—To vote for this salary would not compromise the right of any gentleman to call for an inquiry into the office of Treasurer of the Navy. He denied that this measure would increase the influence of the crown. It might be right or wrong for the Treasurer of the Navy to sit in that House, but it was not matter of course that another office should be held by the same person. Lord Melville, it was true, held the office of President of the Board of Control with the Treasurership of the Navy. But Lord Harrowby, the right hon. gent. opposite (Mr Tierney), he himself, and Mr Sheridan, had each held the Treasurership of the Navy, without any other office. During all that time, it had never been made a question whether the Treasurer of the Navy ought not to be allowed to sit in the House. It was incorrect to talk of the office as a sinecure—it was not so in any one sense of the word. The increase in public business was almost overwhelming in every department. Concerning his own office, he could only say that he did not spare himself; but certain it was that no man who held it could call one hour of his time his own. As to the salary to the President of the Board of Trade, it was a question which stood on its own merits. It was nothing more than restoring the salary which had been taken away by Mr Burke's bill, and that upon circumstances so entirely different, as to furnish a complete justification of the measure.

Mr Calcraft then proposed that the chairman should report progress, and ask leave to sit again on Monday.

On the amendment being put, the numbers were,

For the amendment, 44—Against it, 83—Majority in favour of the original motion, 39.

Mr Hume thought an inquiry ought now to be instituted whether the office of Treasurer of the Navy could not be dispensed with altogether, or so modified that another individual might be enabled to hold it, and the salary be saved to the country. He moved an amendment—"That it is the opinion of this committee, that a salary of 5000*l.* should be attached to the office of President of the Board of Trade; but that it is expedient that an inquiry should be instituted, to ascertain if any, and what, alteration can be made in the office and salary of the Treasurer of the Navy."

Mr Maberly seconded the amendment.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer contended that it was neither proper nor parliamentary to discuss in a committee of supply, the question whether the Treasurer of the Navy ought to be permitted to have a seat in parliament.

Mr Baring said that nothing gave him greater pain than to vote against the resolution for affording compensation to the right honourable gentleman who at present filled the office of President of the Board of Trade; but the fact was, that the shape in which the present resolution was worded, rendered it quite impossible for him to afford his consent to it. He conceived this to be as decided and as bad a government job, as any that had ever come under the notice of parliament; and he hoped that those members who were tenacious of the public purse, and also of the constitutional principle of opposing the entrance

of placemen into that House, would give it every opposition in their power. As ministers refused to institute that inquiry, all he could do was, to meet their resolution with the most determined opposition.

On a division, the numbers were—For the amendment, 35—Against it, 71—Majority, 36.

The original resolution was then put and carried.

On April 10, Mr Brogden appeared at the bar with the report upon the Civil List Act.

On the question "That this report be brought up,"

Mr Hobhouse said, he would take that opportunity to enter his protest against this proceeding, and to express his astonishment, that his Majesty's ministers should have chosen this peculiar time for proposing an unnecessary addition to the number of placemen and pensioners whom they now saw in the House of Commons. The *onus* of proving the necessity of this proceeding rested with ministers. The right honourable gentlemen on the other side of the House were bound to show that the duties attached to the office of Treasurer of the Navy, and President of the Board of Trade, had not been heretofore efficiently performed by one person. Nothing of this kind had, however, been asserted. Here let it be observed, that he made no objection to the increase of that right honourable gentleman's salary. Very far from it. That was not the question; but whether they were to have two officers of the Crown in the House of Commons instead of one? His right honourable friend (Mr Tierney) had told them, on Friday night, that when he filled the office of Treasurer of the Navy, in time of war, he performed the duties adequately, by devoting one hour each day to that object. That statement

remained uncontradicted. His Majesty's ministers had not treated the right honourable gentleman (Mr Huskisson) fairly. That right honourable gentleman undoubtedly deserved much of his country. He had acquired popularity, and it was hard upon him that his well-earned popularity should be obliged to carry weight—that ministers should endeavour to take advantage of it, in order to fasten upon it a measure altogether unjustifiable. From his unwillingness to show the slightest disrespect to the President of the Board of Trade, he hardly knew how to shape a motion; but, as he was bound to resist this proceeding, he should take the course of protesting against the report. Out of doors but one opinion prevailed on the subject, where it was considered, as the honourable member (Mr Baring) had termed it—a ministerial job. Nothing could more plainly show the distress of ministers upon this occasion, than the fact, that the President of the Board of Trade himself had been obliged to make a speech in favour of the motion.

Lord Glenorchy observed upon the obvious difference between the principles and the practice of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Ministerial influence in that House was already more than sufficient, since many benches were filled by those who were placemen and pensioners of the Crown.

Mr. Canning.—The hon. member (Mr Hobhouse) had asked why the present unfavourable time was taken for introducing such a proposition? The answer was plain: the question, in fact, originated with those whom the hon. gentleman had designated his Majesty's Opposition. Government had not entertained the slightest intention of proposing the change until the suggestion came from the other side of the House in a former

session. If he were compelled to purchase one of these offices, by the sacrifice of the other, he would certainly sacrifice the Presidency of the Board of Trade, and retain that of the Treasurership of the Navy. This he would do with a view to the general advantage of the government. It seemed to be contended that the two offices were so naturally united, that nothing but the most barbarous policy could ever separate them. But the office had been held as often alone as conjoined with another. The office was certainly not a sinecure. What the right hon. gentleman opposite (Mr Tierney) had said on a former night, he (Mr Canning) said now—that the Treasurer of the Navy, being an officer high in public trust, ought to hold his time and his talents at the disposal of government, in order to spare those servants of government who were generally overlaboured. This was not merely his opinion—he was stating only what had been said by a committee of that House in 1817, at the time Mr Rose held the office alone, with a salary of 4000*l*. There was nothing which contributed so much to break down the physical strength of a noble lord (Castlereagh), whom he (Mr Canning) was not worthy to have succeeded, as his laborious exertions in a select committee of that House. The gentlemen opposite had confessed, that government had done some good things; but, on this supposed object of ministers to catch another vote, they had bestowed every vituperative epithet that could be applied to it. Now, he insisted that the present government had shown no disposition to increase the patronage of the Crown, or to make offices for the sake of votes. What did it signify to them to gain a few single votes? They did not want such votes. Government must be sup-

ported by the confidence and trust reposed in it by the great body of the House and the country. If matters came to that pass that ministers must depend for their support on ten or twenty votes, it would be time for them to think of resigning their offices. The present government had even been very lax on this point, and had not insisted upon many officers being in parliament who really ought to be there. Here remembered when Mr Pitt, who was himself equal in debate to any ten or twelve men of the present day, was supported by the Master of the Rolls (Sir William Grant), and the Master of the Rolls sat in parliament until Sir Thomas Plumer was appointed to the office. This was another instance, in the case of one who held an office which bore some relation, with respect to the civil law, to the office of Attorney-general, who had formerly usually sat in parliament, and had no seat there at present. In 1804, he remembered, when a very warm and long debate arose on a certain occasion, the whole brunt of which fell on the Master of the Rolls and the King's Advocate. In what period was there such a number of the profession of the law among his Majesty's Opposition as existed there at the present moment? What an advantage, then, would it have been to the ministers, to have had the Master of the Rolls and the King's Advocate in the House on such occasions, for instance, as the recurrence of the Chancery debates, and others of a similar nature, which lawyers alone could best understand? It was of the greatest importance to the country, that the Crown should look to the Houses of Parliament for persons to fill high and responsible public situations. He knew no law that prevented the Crown from making any one who was not in parliament Prime Minister. But he had never heard

it said, that it would be a good thing for the country that the Crown should choose for ministers persons not in parliament. The gentlemen opposite might, themselves, soon succeed to offices, and he was, therefore, doing them a great favour in resisting their proposition. If it were acted upon, they would have for the great offices of state persons of no higher qualifications for them than those of bankers' clerks. The parliamentary character ought never to be separated from high and honourable office. So much, then, for the notion of excluding the Treasurer of the Navy from parliament; and now one word with respect to the salary. That salary was before 4000*l.* per annum, and at the present time it was 3000*l.* It was now proposed to reduce it to 2000*l.* He knew no principle upon which any one of these sums should be preferred to the others. But he found, in the report of the finance committee, a statement, that when this office was held alone, it should be put on the footing of that of Paymaster of the Forces. Here, then, was a rule; and, as the case mentioned by the committee was now likely to arise, that rule might be applied to this office. The salary of the Paymaster of the Forces was 2000*l.* with a house. It was now intended to give the Treasurer of the Navy a salary of 2500*l.*—the additional 500*l.* being in lieu of a house.

Mr Tierney.—“The true and only question before us is, whether the salary of the President of the Board of Trade shall be increased 2000*l.* more than he now receives; and I beg that we may not be talked out of it. Now, what, I ask, has that question to do with the influence of the Crown, or any of the other topics which the right hon. gentleman has pressed into his service this evening? My hon. friend (Mr Hobhouse) calls us his Majesty's Opposition, and I think it

is an excellent phrase. My hon. friend could not have invented a better phrase to designate us than that which he has adopted, for we are certainly, to all intents, a branch of his Majesty's Government. Its proceedings for some time past have proved, that though the gentlemen opposite are in office, we are in power. The measures are ours, but all the emoluments are theirs. It appears, by the right hon. gentleman's showing, that this is our motion. He contends that we have no right to oppose it, because it was we who originally suggested it. It is in my opinion immaterial from what quarter the suggestion proceeded. But it seems to have lain heavily on the right hon. gentleman (Mr Canning). He steps forward to relieve himself, and, as he assures us, to gratify us; and he says, 'I will accede to your wishes; I will take the salary you suggest for one office, and I will keep the other office with the salary just as it is.' No wonder that we do not know our own child. Under his nursing, he has changed it for a lusty bantling, in the shape of a new Treasurer of the Navy; an office which I undertake to prove utterly useless, in a sense which I will hereafter explain. The right hon. gentleman says, that we are not sufficiently on the alert with regard to our own interests; and he has declared that government is in no want of such supporters as it may gain from this measure. I differ from him widely. I think that government do want support. I never saw a session when they wanted it more. The right hon. gentleman may not be aware of the full extent of his obligations to this side of the House; but I can assure him, that if, as he asserts, he would not consent to stay in office with a pitiful majority of twenty, he would, without our support, have been long ago driven from

his present honours. If we take away our support, out he must go to-morrow. The right hon. gentleman has taken credit somewhat too largely for the reduction of the official seats in this House. True, we have lately had no Master of the Rolls here. But Sir Thomas Plumer, towards the close of his life, could not, if he would, have given his personal support to the measures of government. His infirmities rendered him incapable of attending. If we have no Master of the Rolls now in this House, it is because he is in another place, where he is required to be bodily present for the aid and support of the Lord Chancellor. But the right hon. gentleman complains that the opposition is made up of lawyers. It is true that we breed some lawyers on this side, but it is also true that we sometimes breed them for the other side of the House. Half their strength has come out of our nursery, not much improved certainly by transplanting. 'You have two civilians,' the right honourable gentleman says; 'there is an advantage!' But what has he, let me ask? He has one civilian (Dr Phillimore),—and a judge (Sir J. Nicholl), and as one judge is at least worth two civilians, the balance is on the other side of the House. As to lawyers in general, there are surely enough on the other side of the House. They have the Attorney-General, and the Solicitor-General, and the Chief Justice of Chester—he, by the by, is one they have borrowed of us—and they have a Welsh Judge, and perhaps they will have Mr Kenrick next; while we have only those who maintain their station by the independent exercise of their talents. The real question before us, however, is, whether the proposed salary of 5000*l.* shall be given to my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade, in consideration of

the great ability with which he has filled that office? That is the footing on which I wish to see the question stand. I mean to consider the proposition as a compliment to the right hon. gentleman (Mr Huskisson), for I am not convinced that his office ought permanently to belong to the cabinet. I am favourable to the proposition, because I am of opinion that government will be strengthened by increasing the rank and importance of this officer. I therefore heartily hope he may have the augmentation desired. The right hon. Secretary (Mr Canning) says that the suggestion originally came from our side. So let it be, if he pleases; but in what shape did it go from us? Why, undoubtedly, as a suggestion to add 2000*l.* to the salary of 3000*l.* already received by my right hon. friend (Mr Huskisson) as Treasurer of the Navy. There is the less reason for giving a large separate salary to the President of the Board of Trade, as it is the necessary tendency of the labours of my right hon. friend to reduce the number and weight of the duties of that office in future. I regard it as a wanton waste of the public money; and I am equally opposed to the miserable project for reducing the salary of the Treasurer of the Navy from 3000*l.* to 2500*l.*, in order that it may be given to somebody for his support in this House; and for aught that I know, too, to a lawyer."

The House then divided, when the numbers were—For the motion, 87—Against it, 76—Majority for Ministers, 11.

Mr Canning expressed his regret that the smallness of the majority would prevent him from persevering in the course, which, as a matter of principle, he had conscientiously supported; but which, as a matter of expediency, he now felt himself bound, under all the circumstances of the

case, to abandon. The expression of opinion had, undoubtedly, been very strong, and his Majesty's government would no further press the measure. As it seemed to be the wish of the House, they would consent to the union of the ancient office of the Treasurer of the Navy with that of the President of the Board of Trade.

Mr Tierney rose, with heartfelt pleasure, to assure his Majesty's Government that they had, by this act, justly earned the approbation of his Majesty's Opposition.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that his right hon. friend had intimated the course which government intended on this occasion to pursue. It was his duty to carry that intention into effect, and it appeared to him consistent with right feeling, and with a due sense of what belonged to his situation, to move the proposition himself, without suffering any restraint from false shame. He felt it his duty to move, "That the resolution be amended by inserting the sum of 2000*l.* as the salary of the President of the Board of Trade, instead of 5000*l.*"

Sir M. W. Ridley seconded the amendment, which he had intended to move himself, if the right hon. gentleman had not anticipated him.

The resolution, as amended by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was then agreed to, and a bill ordered to be brought in to carry the same into effect:

On Friday, March 3, on the motion of Lord Palmerston, that the House should resolve itself into a Committee of Supply,

Colonel Davies proposed the appointment of a committee to take into consideration the whole of the military expenditure of the country. The honourable member entered into

a comparison between the expenditure and military establishments of the French and American governments, and those of Great Britain. He recommended that colonial corps should be raised, instead of sending troops from this country, which occasioned a heavy expense. If the colonial resources were properly managed, and the pensioners on them were got rid of, he thought that they might be fully available for defraying the costs of their governments. The honourable member considered that the mode in which the militia of this country was called out, created a serious expense, without any real benefit. After adverting to their mean appearance in the field, he suggested that a portion of them should be called out and embodied for a longer time. The hon. member concluded by moving, as an amendment, to omit the words after "that," and insert, instead, "a select committee be appointed to examine into the whole military expenditure of the country."

Lord Palmerston observed, that the committee was the proper place for discussing these details. He should therefore reserve what he had to say on the subject until the Speaker left the chair.

The amendment was then put, and negatived without a division.

The Speaker having left the chair, the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply.

Lord Palmerston began by remarking, that any person who had heard the honourable member (Col. Davies) would think that the estimates now proposed had been greatly increased, whereas the sum estimated was nearly the same as that voted last year. The difference in men amounted to about 300, occasioned by three companies raised in Newfoundland, and paid by that colony; and the sum was greater by 126,000*l.*, of which

84,000*l.* was occasioned by the change in the currency of Ireland. The remainder was occasioned by certain items being charged for a whole twelvemonth, which in the last estimates were only calculated for three-quarters of a year. The estimates of the first class, including the land forces, staff, &c., amounted to 104,000*l.* more than those of the last year. The increase in the land forces was 94,000*l.*; in the staff, 2620*l.*; part of which arose from the change of the currency in Ireland; the remainder was occasioned by the augmentation in the medical staff on the coast of Africa. The medical staff at home had been diminished by 941*l.* In the War-office there had also been a diminution of 947*l.* Under the head of medical charges, there had been a diminution of 941*l.*, effected by the conversion of the Royal Military Infirmary into an hospital. In the estimate for volunteer corps, there was an increase of 8966*l.*, arising from its being supposed that the services of more yeomanry for permanent duty would be required this year than the last. The addition, therefore, would arise from the expenses of the corps whilst on permanent duty; for the number was diminished by 800 men, so that there would be a saving in contingent allowances. But the pay of 5*s.* per day each man, for himself and his horse, was insufficient for the expenses incurred by this class of persons whilst engaged in a temporary military service, and it was therefore proposed to increase the allowance 2*s.*, which would make it 7*s.* per day. In the second class of expenditure there was no material variation. In the third class there was an increase of 23,791*l.* There was no material variation in respect to the Royal Military College. There was an increase of 5339*l.* in the estimate for the pay of general officers. In that for garrisons, there was

no material variation. In the full pay to reduced officers there was a diminution of 7500*l.*; in the half pay and reduced allowances to officers of foreign corps, 2414*l.* The charge on account of in-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital was increased 3300*l.*; that for out-pensioners was increased 44,653*l.*, in consequence of additional casualties. The Royal Military Asylum was much the same as the last year. The widows' pensions were increased 6670*l.*; the allowances on the compassionate list were increased 4190*l.* The superannuation allowances were diminished 1759*l.* The Exchequer-fees continued the same as last year. The estimate for the veteran corps was diminished 3959*l.* The numbers and expenditure of the two years, therefore, stood thus:—Number of men in 1825, 76,345—number of men in 1826, 76,572; making an increase of 227 men. Charges in 1825, 6,476,000*l.*—charges in 1826, 6,602,000*l.*; making an increase of 126,000*l.* The army had been increased last year, it was true; but this increase had been acquiesced in by the House, and likewise by the honourable member (Col. Davies) himself. The only criterion by which the House could judge of the amount of force required, were the present exigencies of the service, and not the necessities of any antecedent period. The colonial service required a large force in actual employ; and it was necessary to have also a disposable reserve. The honourable gentleman had suggested that colonial regiments should be raised, in order to dispense with the services of the regular army; but he (Lord Palmerston) conceived that, if officers were commissioned for general service, they would not like to be required to serve in perpetual banishment, at all events not without an increase of pay, in which case there would be no saving of expense. The

force would likewise be looked up; would not be available for general service; and would consequently become infinitely inferior in point of efficiency. Under the present system, regiments were constantly coming home, and by undergoing inspection, were kept up in a state of discipline. With respect to the proposal of the honourable member to substitute militia for a part of the regular force, the House would be aware that, under the existing law of the country, it could not be carried into effect. The Crown, at present, had no power to keep the militia permanently embodied in time of peace, unless under circumstances of apparent danger from invasion or rebellion. Upon the colonial force he would not detain the House farther than to observe, that he denied distinctly that it was at all greater than it ought to be. The noble lord sat down by moving, that a force not exceeding 87,240 men should be maintained, exclusive of our force in the East Indies, for the service of the present year.

Lord Milton objected to the estimates altogether, as founded upon an erroneous view of the interests of the country. The latter part of the noble lord's speech showed clearly that, in the opinion of the higher authorities of this country, our security depended upon the maintenance of a large military force. He (Lord Milton) was yet quite unconvinced that there was the least necessity for any larger establishment than the country, in former years, had been in the habit of maintaining. If our colonies had increased in one part of the world since the period to which he alluded, in another part they had been diminished. Fifty years since, it would be recollected, the whole of the United States had been under our control. But he objected to the principle upon which the estimates before the House

were framed. In the year 1822, the vote had been for 69,000 men. In the present year, and in the last year, it was for 87,000. What was the object of this increase of 18,000 men in three years, and in three years, too, of prosperity? The noble lord said that the estimate for this year was not greater than the estimate for the last. He did not inquire about that: he asked, why it was greater than that for 1822? He would tell the House why it was greater. It was because in 1822 the distress of the landed interest was such that the noble lord could not have counted upon his rows of county members, without reducing every establishment to the lowest possible point; and as a measure of policy, let the noble lord take that course again, without the loss of an hour; for he might depend upon it that, whatever had been the distress of the landed interest in the year 1822, it would be at least as great before the end of the year 1827.

Mr Hume thought that the whole estimates of the country—army, navy, ordnance, and civil list—might be reduced by one-half, with prodigious advantage. The army estimates for this year were greater than for the last; while the nation was fairly entitled to look for a considerable reduction. From the year 1785 to 1793, our whole army had never exceeded 96,000 men. Now, our officers alone, of the army and navy, mustered 27,000. The poor paid for these enormous establishments, by which the rich and powerful benefited. Upon a moderate calculation, the higher classes received more from the public purse, through the medium of pensions and employments, than the amount of the taxes which they paid into it. The noble lord (Palmerston) thought it unnecessary to go back to the state of our affairs in 1792; but the committee appointed to inquire into the whole

revenue and expenditure of the country, had been of a different opinion. The expense of our establishments might be reduced 12,000,000*l.* a-year, without the smallest ill consequence or inconvenience. The only difference would be, that the noble lord, (Palmerston,) and many others about him, would find their incomes reduced one-half. The extravagant expenditure of the present period, as compared with that of the time gone by, was most alarming. In 1792, the whole expense of the army, including the force in Ireland, was 2,330,000*l.*; the ordnance amounted to 44,000*l.*, for which department they would this year be called on to vote 1,200,000*l.*; and the navy was under 2,000,000*l.* sterling. The whole expense for those establishments did not, at that period, amount to more than 4,700,000*l.* But they now cost four times that sum. Here was ample room for retrenchment. The finance committee had taken a view of the military force maintained by the country from 1785 to 1792. During the whole of that period of peace, the average number of troops employed never exceeded 32,000 men. In 1786, 1787, and 1788, the number was 30,000; in 1792, it was 33,000, and no more. The disembodied militia consisted of about 34,000 men. But now the noble lord called for, nominally, 76,000 troops, but in reality for 86,000; for he had omitted the 10,000 officers who were employed. Taking into account the royal artillery, the marines, and every other species of troops, the total number in 1792 was about 53,000 men. But now Parliament was called on to vote 86,764 men, besides the royal artillery, engineers, and horse artillery, consisting of 8446 men, and 9000 marines, who were available for the land service, forming a total of 104,000 regular troops, which the people were called on to maintain in this the 11th

year of peace. Besides this regular force, there were in England 55,000 militia, and 22,000 in Ireland, making a body of 77,000 men, which cost the country upwards of 150,000*l.* per annum. There were also 74,000 yeomanry maintained at an expense of 153,000*l.* a-year. These were exclusive of the colonial corps, which were stationed at Ceylon, the Cape, &c. amounting to between 4000 and 5000 men. Taking these different bodies together, they gave a grand total of 259,000 men in arms, or ready to be called into service on any emergency. If from this gross amount they deducted the militia and regulars which were provided for in 1792, they would find an increase in the present, as compared with the former period, of 173,000 men. Surely this was wholly inconsistent with the recommendation of the finance committee in 1817. Let gentlemen consider who were the members of that committee. Among them were the late Lord Castlereagh, Mr Bankes, Mr Tierney, Mr Vansittart, (the then Chancellor of the Exchequer,) Lord Binning, Sir J. Newport, Mr Huskisson, Mr Peel, Mr F. Lewis, Mr D. Giddy, Mr Gooch, and Sir Thomas Acland. They sat for nearly two years, and produced no less than eleven comprehensive reports. The following passage was contained in their second report :—"Your committee, in making a reference to the year 1792. desire to call the notice of the House to the low establishments of the latter part of that year, which were deemed sufficient for all national purposes at that time, in the contemplation of a long continuance of peace ; and although many circumstances are materially changed, by events which have subsequently taken place, so as to prevent any exact parallel from being drawn between the two cases, especially in the amount of pecuniary charge, yet they submit that as near

an approximation to that low scale of establishment and expense, as may be found consistent with our more extended possessions, and with the augmented rates of various fixed disbursements, would be highly advantageous in relieving the burdens, and in supporting the public credit of the country." Those who were members of the House at that period, must recollect the speech of the noble lord, (Castlereagh,) which he (Mr Hume) had afterwards read, and which held out the most flattering hopes of a reduction of the national expenditure. The noble lord then observed, that the reduced establishment at which they had arrived, was not near so low as that which might be expected in the course of a few years. The committee went farther than the noble lord, and declared their firm opinion, that by an arrangement with respect to the half-pay, the country would, in a very few years, be relieved from a very large portion of the expense incurred by the military establishment. But it appeared that the House and the country were completely deceived. The pensions and every portion of the fixed establishment, instead of being decreased, had gone on progressively increasing. He did not blame the noble lord opposite (Lord Palmerston) on account of these estimates. He was only the organ employed to lay them before the House ; and the censure ought to fall, not on him, but on his Majesty's ministers. The committee of 1817 stated, in their second report, that it was only by adhering to a rigid system of retrenchment and economy during peace, that this country could be enabled successfully to encounter a period of warfare, should circumstances render it necessary that recourse should be had to hostilities ; and therefore they recommended the utmost economy in all disbursements of the public money, as essentially necessary

to the substantial benefit of the country. At the period of 1822, the noble member for Yorkshire (Lord Milton) gave the landed proprietors a little good advice, but they would not take it; and they pursued the most absurd course that any set of men ever adopted. When attempts were made at that time to bring down those establishments to their proper scale, the country gentlemen refused to give their assistance in effecting that desirable object. They voted for the continuance of those extravagant establishments; and then, with the most extraordinary inconsistency, they turned round, and called for the reduction of those very establishments in favour of which they had previously raised their voices. The estimate which the noble lord now presented, amounted exactly to within 41,000*l.* of that which he submitted to the House in 1821. The estimate for this year was 6,602,133*l.*; for 1821, it was 6,643,000*l.* On the 27th of June, in that year, the House addressed his Majesty, requesting him to cause every possible saving to be made in the public expenditure, so far as such retrenchment could be effected without detriment to the public service in the different establishments. The expenditure in the military department was particularly adverted to. He proposed a motion, which, though in substance the same, would have expressed the determination of the House more decidedly; and although the late noble lord had declared, at the commencement of the session, that the service of the country could not go on if a single man were reduced, in a few months after the address to which he had alluded was voted, a reduction was effected in every department. He believed the retrenchment in the army, navy, and ordnance, in the next year, amounted to 1,500,000*l.* In 1821, 81,000 men were called for; but in

the next year after that address, there was a reduction of no less than 20,000 men; and the reduced number was found amply sufficient for carrying on the service of the country. In 1822, the military estimate was 6,103,000*l.*, a reduction of half a million having been made on the estimate of the preceding year. The House would, therefore, see the good which had been effected by the address that had been agreed to in 1821. In 1824, the number of troops was raised to 73,000, and, unfortunately, in 1825, that number was augmented to 86,438. At the present moment, there were 32,670 regular troops in Great Britain; and in Ireland, there were 21,900. Where was the occasion for such a force, when it was known that during the period of peace, from 1785 to 1792, the number of troops in Great Britain never exceeded 17,000? Why should they now keep up a regular force beyond the number which was deemed sufficient in 1792? He had, he thought, said enough to show ministers the necessity which existed for following the recommendation of the finance committee of 1817. It was their duty to reduce taxation, and this undoubtedly they could do, without impairing the strength of their establishments. Impressed with these sentiments, he should move—"That, in the opinion of this committee, it is expedient, under the present circumstances of the country, to make a large reduction in the amount and extent of the military establishment, and to approximate it, as soon and as nearly as possible, to the establishment of 1792, as recommended in the report of the finance committee of 1817, in the following words."—[Here the hon. member introduced the passage from the report which he had read in the course of his speech.]

Lord Palmerston said, that the hon. member would not obtain much even

if his amendment were carried. The hon. member had made the report of the committee of 1817 a very convenient instrument of debate. He used it on all occasions, as best suited his purpose; and he (Lord Palmerston) recollected when he had not treated that committee with the same respect and deference. If the hon. member would take the trouble of looking at what that committee had estimated as the probable prospective expense of the military department, he would find that the amount now called for fell considerably short of that estimate. In the report, 8,500,000*l.* was set forth as the prospective expense, including 300,000*l.* for the militia. The hon. gentleman had repeatedly stated, that if his recommendations had been attended to as they ought to have been, government would, by this time, have reduced the expenses of all the establishments full one-half. If the House would look at the whole of these estimates, they would soon discover that about one half of the charges were ascribable to the efficient part of the establishment; the other half to the liquidation of half-pay, pensions, and other charges, which were of a nature not in any way liable to reduction, even by the plan of the hon. gentleman. He appealed to the House, if government had not, since the peace, by repeated reductions of taxation, shown an earnest desire to relieve the country from its burdens, and to put the establishments of the country on a reasonable and effective footing. As to displaying too much of a military spirit—a charge which had been repeatedly urged against the government—for himself, and for those with whom he acted, he disclaimed it. He would just give one instance of the effects of too rapid a reduction of our forces. In 1821, the government effected a considerable reduction of the establishment. What

was the consequence? There immediately occurred an urgent necessity for a great increase in the colonial service. Great embarrassments were experienced by the government, and at last, after trying for three or four years, they found it necessary to come to Parliament for an augmentation of forces. Last year he had stated in his place, that this augmentation was not wanted for any purpose at home—not for coercing the population—not for oppressing Ireland, but for colonial purposes. On that ground, and on no other, he now asked for his vote.^a The augmentation then granted by Parliament had fully answered the purpose, and had been applied as the government had undertaken to apply it. He did not suppose that any gentleman would assume it as the ground of his argument, that the colonial service ought to be a perfect banishment of officers and men—that they should be compelled to pass the whole of their lives in tropical climes, or other places equally unfavourable to their health. Yet such was the effect of the former method. He could not conceive how the honourable gentleman could include the marines as a body applicable to the service of internal defence. To the same purpose of argument the hon. gentleman had applied the disembodied militia, as well as 22,000 Irish militia; and which existed only in his own imagination,—the latter being a force which was not even enrolled. By the same enlarged optics, he had discovered an effective force of 74,000 volunteers.

Mr Hume would have been satisfied with the application of the new forces to the relief of foreign garrisons, but his complaint still was, that they were chiefly kept at home. It did not appear that they had been sent out since 1821. If government were sincere, the increase would only have been made in available corps. But how

stood the fact? The Life Guards were 785 men in 1792; they were now 1305. The increase of the regiments of cavalry was from 3037 to 7014. Were these additional cavalry wanted for the garrisons abroad? The Guards had been increased from 3572 to 5726—but they were never sent to the garrisons abroad. Why not reduce these 8000 additional men, of the most expensive class in the service—the cavalry in particular, which cost 74*l.* per man—infantry only 31*l.* The marines had been augmented since the peace by 3000 men, with the express purpose of making them efficient as a garrison force, and ought, therefore, to be reckoned with the others. The noble lord accused him of mistake and delusion in considering the militia as a part of the effective force. But if they were really ineffective, why keep them up at an expense of 150,000*l.* a-year? Let the noble lord only guarantee to the House, that the half-pay should not be filled up again with young officers. But that charge had actually been increasing every year since 1816; the country being now in the eleventh year of a peace!

The House then divided, when there appeared—For the original motion, 144—Mr Hume's amendment, 45—Majority, 99.

Mr Hume then objected to an additional grant for the yeomanry and volunteer establishment.

Lord Althorpe contended that this additional grant was perfectly uncalled for.

Mr Peel said, that, as he understood the hon. member, (Mr Hume,) his proposition was, that the volunteer establishment should be abolished. He begged to remind the hon. gentleman of the remarks of the finance committee, whose labours were so fortunate as to meet with the approval of the hon. gentleman. The opinion of that committee was favourable to the vo-

lunteer system, and in that opinion he most cordially concurred. They had maintained the tranquillity of the country, and had not been employed to keep down the people, as had been so frequently stated by the hon. member.

Sir Robert Heron considered that every grant of money that went to the support of volunteer cavalry, was so much thrown away. He would ask the House what were these troops fit for? In cases of internal disturbances, they by no means were found to be fit persons to quell riot and disorder, and for this obvious reason—that their local connexion made them parties in every disturbance, and they were therefore unfitted to interpose between conflicting parties. The disturbances at Manchester afforded a strong instance of this. It was otherwise with the regular army.

Lord J. Russell objected to the existence of a volunteer establishment, for he believed in most instances it could be proved that volunteer corps were kept up for political purposes, and to gratify the party feelings of those by whom they were established.

Sir R. Fergusson seconded the amendment. If yeomanry were to be kept up in the country, let them pay for their horses as heretofore.

Mr Bennet conceived that it was impossible for a yeoman to pay his expenses out of 5*s.* a-day; he thought that 7*s.* was not too much for man and horse. He had himself witnessed the exertions of yeomanry to keep the peace in times of disturbance, and he bore willing testimony to the prompt and efficient manner in which they acted.

Mr Wynn defended the yeomanry force as a useful constitutional body.

Lord Althorpe approved of the yeomanry system, because it brought the gentry and the farmer together; but he strongly objected to permanent duty.

Sir H. Vivian bore testimony to the merits of the yeomanry, and approved of their constant inspection by cavalry officers.

Mr Brougham said, that after having voted such an immense standing army during a time of profound peace, there could be no real necessity for the expense of this auxiliary force.

Mr Hobbhouse said, that on the report on Monday he would propose a reduction of this estimate by some definite number, as he thought so large an expenditure in time of peace unjustifiable.

Sir F. Burdett wished to protect himself against being supposed to participate in the views of his hon. friends, who thought that the interference of a standing army with the civil power was preferable, in a constitutional point of view, to that of a yeomanry force. He could speak of that which was organized in the counties of Wilts and Berks, in which he chiefly resided, as being composed of a very respectable body of volunteers, who would, he believed, if called out in a time of invasion, or under any circumstances, do credit to their country. He objected, however, to the principle of permanent duty, inasmuch as it tended to destroy the real yeomanry force of a country, by assimilating them too much to a standing army. With respect to that unfortunate massacre at Manchester, he must say that it was not perpetrated by what he would call a yeomanry force, but by a body of armed partizans most improperly brought into action, against a defenceless and unarmed populace, against whom these armed persons were at the moment in a high state of excitement. Though he objected to the permanent duty, and wished as much as possible to diminish the expenditure of the country, there was no part of it he

thought so little objectionable as this for the yeomanry.

The two amendments were then put and negatived, and the original resolution carried.

Monday, March 6.—On the motion, in a committee of supply, for granting 18,135*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* for the charges of the Royal Military College,

Mr Hume asked, whether all the young men educated at the establishment obtained commissions?

Lord Palmerston said, that the number of students furnished with cadetships during the last two years was 113. Of these 46 were by purchase, and 67 by gift.

Mr Hume objected to the appointment of new officers in the present distressed state of the country, whilst there were many meritorious officers on half-pay who would be glad to obtain employment. He also objected to the high salaries which the staff officers of the college received.

After some slight discussion, the motion was agreed to.

The House then divided, when the numbers were—For the grant, 87—Against it, 22—Majority, 65.

On the House resuming, a grant of 35,498*l.* was proposed for garrisons at home and abroad.

Mr Hume objected that, in a variety of cases, governors and lieutenant-governors were kept up whose appointments were merely nominal. Some never resided at all; and in many places the garrisons were only kept up for the purpose of placing a certain number of sinecures at the disposal of government.

Lord Palmerston said, that many of the posts were not sinecures; and that such as were, were rewards given to meritorious officers for services which they had performed.

Mr Hume wished to know why Fort Augustus and Fort William—

two places which the Military Commission had recommended for reduction—were not given up? and why there was an increase in the estimate for them for the present year? He understood that they were still maintained at the desire of the Duke of Wellington.

Lord Palmerston said, that if they had been demolished, of course the officers attached to them would have retained their pay during life; so that nothing would have been gained. The trifling increase in the estimate arose from some addition of pay given to non-commissioned officers. Really, the question came shortly to this—whether the Crown ought or ought not to have it in its power to reward long services?

Lord John Russell said that he had changed his opinion since the last year upon this point, and could not vote with his hon. friend (Mr Hume). He thought that the Crown ought to have the power of providing for officers; and that a place was better than a pension, because there was something of honour attached to it.

Sir H. Hardinge said, that the military commission had certainly thought with Mr Hume; but that since the Caledonian canal had been constructed, one of these forts stood at the very entrance of it. And if it were not for this fort, any privateer with a couple of guns might come up to the lock gates and blow them off, which would do very serious mischief.

Mr Hume said, that the present vote, as it respected the colonies, was extremely unjust to this country. He should therefore move, that the resolution now before the House be reduced by the deduction of the sum of 5900*l.* being the charge for Canada, Gibraltar, and the Cape of Good Hope.

Mr Wilmot Horton shortly defended the propriety of the vote.

The committee divided, when there appeared—for the amendment, 21; against it, 116; majority, 95.

On the motion that 107,296*l.* be granted for half-pay and reduced allowances to officers of disbanded foreign corps, for pensions to wounded foreign officers, and for allowances to the widows and children of deceased foreign officers for the year 1826,

Mr Hume inquired, whether those foreign officers were allowed to sell their half-pay?

Lord Palmerston answered that they were, on the same principle as officers on the British half-pay were allowed to sell, with this difference, that the allowance to the foreign half-pay officer was not so great as that granted to the British half-pay officer. Very few of the foreign half-pay officers had availed themselves of this permission.

Mr Hume said, this portion of the half-pay diminished very slowly. In 1817, the charge was 135,000*l.* and now it was 107,000*l.*; from this he inferred that as younger officers would buy the half-pay of older officers, the charge would be perpetual.

The resolution was agreed to.

The next resolution was for 49,271*l.* on account of the in-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital, 34,323*l.*; and of the Royal Hospital, near Kilmainham, Dublin, 14,947*l.*

Mr Hume said, the majority of the persons supported at Kilmainham Hospital would, to-morrow, receive, with pleasure, one half of the amount which was at present expended in keeping up that large building. They would, by such a change, be enabled to live far more comfortably.

Sir G. Murray said, most of the pensioners were natives of Ireland; and it was only proper that old soldiers should have a refuge and a resting place in their own country.

The motion was then agreed to.

The next resolution was, for the sum of 1,285,566*l.* for the charge of the out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital for the year 1826.

Mr Hume said he could not conceive why this expense should go on increasing. The increase since 1822 was 319,000*l.*

Lord Palmerston said this charge depended on contingencies, which must, of necessity, increase it sometimes, and decrease it at others. It was clear that many who had served with honour in the war, and had spent the vigour of their lives in the service of their country, must have since become chargeable on this fund.

Mr Hume wished to know what must be the result if all the charges increased in this proportion. After the great reduction of the army in 1816, when the amount of the half-pay did not much exceed 400,000*l.*, the finance committee directed the House to look for a considerable decrease on this head of expense. Instead of which, it increased up to the year 1822, in the following amounts:—In 1817, it was 647,000*l.*; in 1818, 651,000*l.*; in 1819, 737,000*l.*; in 1820, 783,000*l.*; in 1821, 765,000*l.*; in 1822, 818,965*l.* So that after ten years from the peace, this charge had increased upon the country upwards of 300,000*l.*

Sir C. Long said, that the hon. member (Mr Hume) had not taken notice of the fact, that in 1822, the out-pensions of Kilmainham had been incorporated with those of Chelsea. He admitted, however, he had looked for a diminution under this head; but instead of it he was surprised by an increase. He had also found the utmost difficulty in accounting for it. He knew that it could be accounted for in part by the reduction of veteran battalions, and in part also by the recalling of troops from the East and West Indies. But these two modes were not enough to account for a gra-

dual and progressive increase. He had sent persons into various parts of England to detect fraud and imposition, if they existed among the pensioners in England. No frauds or impositions were detected. He had sent parties into Ireland upon the same errand. As yet he had no satisfactory returns. He could not say where the fault lay. Certainly the government was not blameable. They could not refuse the pensions. He, however, attributed the bulk of the evil to the service pensions. The act which gave that right was passed (he spoke it with due respect for all concerned) as a party measure. A great deal of alarm existed at the time, and the enthusiasm of Mr Wyndham had acted but too sensibly on the House.

The resolution was agreed to.

The next vote was for 25,545*l.* for the Royal Military Asylum, which was agreed to.

The next resolution was for 142,039*l.* for widows' pensions.

Mr Hume wanted to know whether there was any rule for granting these pensions, which, like those of the officers, were in a continual course of increase.

Lord Palmerston answered that the pensions were granted by fixed rules, under warrants bearing the sign manual. The widows of half-pay officers were as eligible as those of officers dying in full pay; so that the casualties rather tended to an increase.

The next resolution was for granting 190,798*l.* for the compassionate list, county warrants, and pensions for wounds.

Mr Hume again complained of the increase.

On the motion for granting 23,683*l.* for the veteran service for Great Britain and Ireland,

Mr Hume had seen veteran corps continually raised and disbanded without any reason. He desired to know

if those corps were to be kept up or not? Their maintenance caused, in his opinion, a very useless expense.

Lord Palmerston replied, that all officers who had previously enjoyed half-pay in other regiments, were clearly entitled to the addition of half-pay from the veteran service, provided they were duly enrolled.

Sir-H. Hardinge, in proposing the estimates for the ordnance department, informed the committee, that three or four departments had been consolidated for the purpose of being under the control of one responsible board, the members of which could have the best means of forming a correct opinion on the subjects laid before them. Another advantage was, that several expenses which were before scattered in different estimates, were now brought under one head. Among the ordnance supplies was now to be found a naval vote. During the whole of the last century, it had been the custom to insert the naval vote among the navy estimates; but, as the particular subjects of this vote (the ammunition and arms) were supplied by the ordnance department, it was now thought better to introduce them among the expenses of that department to which they more properly belonged. The sum required for this particular item, in this year, amounted to 98,133*l*. In the last year, the sum required was only 94,250*l*. making an increase for this year of 3,883*l*. The whole sum required was 1,754,403*l*., which only exceeded the vote for last year by the sum of 55,140*l*.; but as the estimate of this year was credited by an increased sum of 9,645*l*., the real increase in the sum required was only 45,495*l*. The sum now required was smaller than any other that had been required for the last thirty years, excepting only the year 1825. A sum of more than 22,000*l*. had been

added to these expenses by the necessary augmentation of a regiment of artillery. The number of companies had been increased. Each company consisted of 70 men, and we had formerly what was called a driving corps. In the year 1821, we had 400 drivers, who were now incorporated in the marching artillery gunners and drivers. The increase was, only the result of the absolute necessity of the case, the artillery having actually been diminished below its proper standard. This, however, had been done at the recommendation of the House, which, after having been fully tried, was found to be attended with such inconveniences as to render it impossible to be continued. He wished to add, that the augmentation of the companies had taken place without any augmentation of officers. He would now refer to the item of cadets. The number of cadets at Woolwich was 146, in the year 1821; they now only amounted to 40; but in the estimate they were stated at 80, because it was supposed that the artillery corps could not be supplied with skilful officers, unless that number of students was kept up, and it was therefore necessary to provide the means of maintaining that number. The extraordinaries formed but a small item in the present estimates; and a sum of 16,919*l*. out of those to be voted for Ireland, was attributable partly to the expenses of the Irish survey, and partly to the difference occasioned by the payments being made in British instead of Irish currency, and also to some expenses incurred in repairs. The Irish survey was now in a state of great progress. It was going on as rapidly as such a work could be carried forward. The Irish country gentlemen had called for the survey, which they expected would be productive of the greatest benefit. Maps had been drawn, allowing six inches for a mile as the

scale of measurement, in order to afford the fullest means of information on the subject. The barracks were the next items to which he wished to call the attention of the House. The sum required for the barracks in England was 165,087*l.*; in Ireland, it was 135,703*l.*; the expense in Ireland being 6898*l.* less than last year. The increase in England was caused principally by the alterations which had lately taken place in the King's Mews, and which amounted to 25,000*l.* There had been a great diminution of our barrack accommodation in this country. The number of men formerly capable of being accommodated in barracks amounted to 170,000 in England, and to 80,000 in Ireland, making a total of 250,000 men. At present, barrack accommodation could only be afforded to 76,000 men in England, and to 42,000 in Ireland. In the military store branch, there was a diminution of 11,309*l.* The hon. member concluded by moving the first item of the ordnance estimates, "That a sum of 52,349*l.* be granted to his Majesty, to defray the salaries of the master-general and the other officers of the ordnance."

Mr Hume was extremely sorry to find that the estimates submitted to the House had so far exceeded every reasonable expectation. We had an increase in almost every item enumerated in those estimates, and the country had the additional satisfaction of hearing that a further increase was contemplated for the approaching year. He feared that the country would be destroyed by those unwise and unwholesome expenses. He complained strongly that thirty-five companies of artillery were at the present time maintained, when ten ought to be deemed sufficient.

Sir Henry Hardinge defended the present scale upon which the ordnance establishment was framed; and

said, that so far from its showing an increasing expense in the particular department alluded to, there was a reduction of 67,000*l.*, as compared with the estimates of 1820, and of 193,000*l.* as compared with those of 1821. He also pointed out that a system of economy was apparent in all the details.

Sir Joseph Yorke said, that with reference to the reduction in this branch of the public expenditure under Mr Pitt's government in 1792, he must say that the great pilot who weathered the storm never made a greater *yaw* (to use the nautical phrase) than he had done on that occasion; for it afterwards exposed this country to the necessity of sending the Duke of York, with only a corporal's guard, to the continent, to protect England from insult.

Sir Ronald Fergusson could not disapprove of the maintenance of the artillery force, which ought, in his opinion, to be the last corps subjected to reduction. There was no comparison between the present state of the artillery and that of 1792. Whatever they were at the former period, they were at present the most efficient corps in Europe.

General Townsend, Colonel Davies, and Colonel Johnson, agreed as to the expediency of keeping soldiers in barracks.

Mr. Hobhouse said, his objection was to the principle of having soldiers too much separated from intercourse with the citizens,—a practice disapproved of by Blackstone, who had written in strong terms against it.

The remaining resolutions were then agreed to by the committee.

On March 7, on the order of the day being read for bringing up the report of the Committee of Supply,

Mr Hobhouse said, that it was his intention, in pursuance of the notice

which he had given on a former evening, to propose a specific reduction of the number of troops which his Majesty's ministers had thought fit to call on the House to vote. The noble lord, (Palmerston,) in the speech which he delivered when he proposed the army estimates, gave the House no reason whatever for continuing the present military establishment in time of peace; and still less did he assign any ground for the increase which he had proposed. An observation had been made by an hon. member on a former evening, that before ministers called on the House for those enormous supplies, the Chancellor of the Exchequer ought to have laid before the country something like a financial statement. Nothing of the kind had been done: and all they had heard, inside and outside of the doors of parliament, was, that there was a great difference in the state of the country in the present and in the last year. And what was it in 1821? The amount of positive taxation was then very nearly 1,000,000*l.* less than in 1825; and yet, in 1821, the House deemed it necessary, under the sanction of his Majesty's ministers, and loudly called on by the agricultural interests, to come to a unanimous vote, recommending in the strongest terms, that every possible reduction should be effected immediately. The noble lord (Castlereagh) then at the head of his Majesty's government, declared that the business of the country could not be carried on if the reduction of a single soldier took place. The hon. member (Mr Hume) moved for a reduction of 10,000 men, and his proposition was negatived. However, very shortly afterwards, the noble lord (Palmerston) came down to the House, and stated that ministers had been able to reduce 12,000; and that the reduction would have

been carried still farther, if it had not been for the disturbed state of Ireland. That country was now in a state of tranquillity—so were the colonies. Why, then, in a period of profound peace, should this immense force be continued? Above all, why should it be augmented? When an attempt was made to keep up the military establishment in 1815 and 1816, Lord Grenville said, "It is useless to discuss minor matters, so long as you keep up this enormous military establishment, which cuts at the root of the British constitution, and leaves no other rights worth talking about." The noble lord had told the House, that the situation of the colonies demanded the augmentation. If, however, such relief were necessary for the colonies, it did not follow that so large a force should be kept up at home. There were now 32,670 soldiers in England, and no less than 15,000 on the recruiting service; while, in 1792, there were only 17,000 military in Great Britain. Ministers had no pretext whatever for this increase.—The hon. gentleman concluded by moving—"That it appears to the House that the regular military force of the country in 1822, exclusive of the troops employed in India, amounted to 69,088 men; and, according to the estimate presented to the House, the same description of force in the present year amounts to 87,240 men; being an increase, over and above the number employed in 1822, of 18,152 men: That it appears to this House, that no change has taken place either in the foreign relations or internal condition of the country, since 1822, to justify so large an increase of our standing army; and that, in order to return as early as possible to the military establishment of that period, it is expedient to reduce the regular troops for the

service of the United Kingdom and the colonies, exclusive of India, to 77,000 men."

Colonel Johnson seconded the motion.

Lord Palmerston said, that although he could not agree in the proposition of the hon. gentleman, yet he was not disposed to object to the general principle which he had laid down—namely, that it was incumbent on the House to apportion, as scrupulously as possible, the amount of the military force to the actual wants of the country. He most distinctly declared last year the grounds on which he called for an augmentation of 13,000 men. At that time he explicitly denied that any part of that increase was rendered necessary by the internal state either of this country or of Ireland. The plain grounds were the state of the colonial service. But the hon. member said, "If a smaller force were sufficient in 1822, why have you demanded a larger force since?" The fact was, that in 1822 the government, anxious, as they ought to be, to give in to the general feeling of the House and of the country, consented to a reduction, which, in their sober judgment, they felt when made would be greater than they could possibly adhere to, with a due regard to the proper performance of their duty to the country. Having tried this reduced system for two or three years, and finding that it did not succeed, they felt it necessary, as a public duty, to declare that the experiment had failed, and to ask for an augmentation. Much had been said about the force employed in Canada and the West Indies; but if gentlemen would look to the troops employed in those possessions in 1792, they would find the present increase very trifling indeed, when they compared the extent of territory which we possessed formerly with

that which we possess now. The infantry of the line consisted of 83 regiments. Of these, 9 were in Great Britain, 23 in Ireland, and 51 on foreign stations. Besides the 9 regiments of the line in this country, there were dépôts for the 51 regiments abroad, where recruits and invalids were received. Taking the 9 regiments at home at 740 men each, it gave a total of 6660 men. Supposing 224 men at each of the 51 dépôts, the total was 11,424 rank and file. Add to these, six battalions of foot guards, 4400 men; and staff corps, 300 men; and the gross total would be 22,784 men. Of these, 11,424 were not on actual service; they were in dépôt, and were ready to go abroad when called for. The object in keeping up this part of the establishment was, that the places of non-effective men might be immediately supplied; and by that means the regiments abroad be continued in a perfectly complete and efficient condition. In speaking, therefore, of the force at home, it would be proper to deduct this body of 11,424 men. There were 51 regiments abroad, of which 20 were in the West Indies. Now, supposing those regiments thus employed on foreign service to be absent only for ten years, (and he believed no person who was acquainted with foreign service would say that ten years was too short a period,) then it became obvious that there must be sent out from this country annually, seven regiments to foreign stations, while seven others came home from foreign stations. And as one regiment did not quit a foreign station until it was regularly relieved by another, it followed that there were, in the course of the year, 14 regiments neither employed abroad nor in this country, but occupied either with their passage out or home. Taking one station with another, he

might say that the reliefs sent out were equal to five regiments, which ought to be deducted from the general establishment for the whole year. If, then, the five regiments thus constantly withdrawn for relief were deducted from nine, it would leave at home, independent of cavalry and of 4400 guards, a disposable force of only four regiments of the line.

The House then divided, when there appeared—For the amendment, 34—Against it, 106—Majority, 72.

On March 10, Lord Palmerston rose for the purpose of proposing two clauses to the mutiny bill. The first was for the purpose of exempting persons who served in the capacity of consuls from being billeted upon by soldiers; the second would repeal a law, by which, if a soldier destroyed game, his officer was fined 2*l.* for every head of game he might kill.

Mr Hume stated, that persons in Edinburgh complained, that, although barracks were plentiful, soldiers were billeted on persons as if there were none. Such persons were obliged to find hay and straw for the soldier's horse, which would amount to 2*s.* 6*d.* per day, and they would only be allowed 10½*d.*

Lord Palmerston said, that it often happened that where barracks were full, or there were no barracks, soldiers were obliged to be billeted.

The clauses were then agreed to.

Mr Hume then rose for the purpose of submitting a clause for the abolition of a practice which had long existed in the army of this country—he meant the punishment of flogging. The evil of flogging did not consist merely in the bodily torture inflicted on the individual who was thus punished; it had also the bad effect of rendering those who were obliged to witness such scenes more callous and indifferent than be-

fore. No man ever became a more diligent or a better soldier by the punishment of the whip. In the Wurtemberg army, under the government of the late king, a system of discipline of a most severe and cruel kind had been carried on; but on the accession of the present king, an end was put to that system, and the change was attended with the happiest effects. He did not know what was the practice of the French army in this respect, though he was informed that in several regiments in that service flogging was not practised; but in Wurtemberg there were two regiments to which men were draughted who had been punished twice or more in their own regiments. Another regiment was appointed to receive those who had been punished only once. We were now in a time of profound peace, and no danger could arise to the general discipline of our army from at least making the trial. He was not disposed to carry the experiment too far at first, and therefore, in the resolution which he would submit, he would limit the suppression of flogging to regiments in the United Kingdom. In the colonies, the present system might be continued until it was ascertained how far the suppression could be made effectual at home. He would also limit his resolution to a time of peace, so that if a war were to break out unexpectedly, resort might be had to the old system, if necessary. Thus no possible danger could arise from the trial. The House was not without an example of flogging having been abolished without any dangerous effect upon military discipline. In America the punishment of flogging had been abolished, and that, too, at a time when she was engaged in a war. This was effected without producing any bad effect in the discipline of their army. On the con-

travy, that discipline was kept up in a more effectual manner than before.

Mr J. Smith said, that he did not think the present moment a proper one for the discussion of a question of such importance as that which the hon. member had introduced. The principle of the resolutions he fully concurred in to its full extent. But he thought that instead of being thus introduced at a late hour, the question should be made the subject of a specific motion as it had been when formerly introduced by an hon. baronet, (Sir F. Burdett,) to whose humane exertions might be attributed the improvement which had already been made in our military discipline on this point.

Sir J. Brydges gave his entire concurrence to the resolutions of the hon. member, (Mr Hume,) because he was convinced that the system of flogging in the army was improper, and ought to be abolished. It was improper, because honour was the essence of a soldier's profession, and when he was disgraced, by being subjected to such punishment, he considered his honour tarnished, and he was no longer capable of any heroic feeling.

Sir G. Murray said he was no friend to severe punishment of any kind; but he thought that the power of inflicting corporal punishment was necessary to the discipline of an army. He knew of no instance of any army, ancient or modern, without similar punishments. If it were a fact that the punishment of flogging was altogether abolished in America, what comparison was there between an army of 6000 men, scattered over the immense surface of that country, and the extensive army kept up in this? With respect to the army in France, it was well known that before the present dynasty returned to the throne of that country, a system of discipline of the most severe de-

scription was kept up at an expense of human life that would strike British feeling with horror, and the present system would scarcely be taken as a pattern. He had learned from a gentleman, well acquainted with the regulations of the Prussian and Saxon armies, that in the Prussian army the punishment of the cane was universal and arbitrary; but the constitution of that army was essentially different from that of the English military force; for there every man was obliged to serve. The army was composed of two classes—a soldier, on entering, belonged to the first, in which he was exempted from corporal punishment. But if he violated the military regulations, he was transferred to the second class, in which corporal punishment might be inflicted. The punishment of the cane was inflicted by non-commissioned officers, and in secret. Would the hon. member wish to see such a system of secret flogging adopted in our army? Another regulation was, that only forty stripes could be inflicted without the sentence of a court-martial. Would the hon. member desire to see an arbitrary system of this kind adopted in the British army? There were other species of punishment to which the Prussian soldiers were liable: as confinement of several sorts: first, sending a man to the guard-room, or for a short time to solitary confinement. The second was to solitary confinement, on bread and water, with a forfeiture of pay; and there was another species of confinement in which the prisoner was not permitted to lie down. Was the hon. member aware of these facts, when he stated that torture was abolished in foreign armies? Another species of punishment was, fastening the criminal to a tree, or a wall, with his face turned towards it, and keeping him in that posture for a consi-

derable period, without permitting him to lie down. This was an outline of the discipline in the Prussian service, which was described as the mildest on the continent. In the Saxon, the highest punishment was shooting; but, in many cases, after death the body was delivered over to the common hangman, to be stretched upon the rack. There were, besides, several degrees of punishment by solitary confinement—sometimes with the addition of bread and water diet—sometimes with leg-irons of 32lbs. weight: after the infliction of this punishment a second time, the culprit was declared altogether unworthy to remain in the army. Under another description of punishment, a soldier was kept in solitary confinement, in chains, in a cell, without bed or bedding, and frequently in a position called crouching—the body bent forward, the hands and feet fastened together, (was not that torture?) so that he could not lie down. The longest period during which this punishment might be inflicted at frequent intervals, was eight months; in some cases it was limited to six. The military punishments of Hanover were full as severe as the latter. These statements would serve to confute the assertions that other nations were less severe than we in their military punishments, and that there had been an abandonment of torture in all nations except in England. As to the proposal that the system of flogging should be relinquished in this country, and retained in our colonies, such a regulation would be most highly unjust, and attended with the most pernicious consequences.

Sir R. Wilson thought the system of flogging ought to be altogether abolished. Every other power in Europe had given it up, and without any detriment to military discipline. The severity with which the disci-

pline of the French army had been formerly maintained, had been very much exaggerated, and its present condition was highly commendable. If flogging were to be abolished in our army, it would soon be composed of a different class of persons. In consequence of the adherence to this system, our soldiers were at present frequently the outcasts of society, who resorted to this profession because they were neither fitted for, nor could get admitted into, any other.

Lord Palmerston was ready to admit, that whenever punishment was accompanied with ignominy, it must necessarily have the effect of hardening the offender; but he conceived the doing away with this punishment would have the effect of introducing other and greater evils. He could assure the House that a disposition existed in the highest quarter to have recourse to corporal punishment as seldom as possible; and when, from the returns made to the Commander in Chief, it appeared that corporal punishment had been frequently inflicted in a regiment, the conclusion which he universally drew from it was, that the officers were not doing their duty. When it was considered that our army was raised by voluntary enlistment, and not by conscription, it would be readily conceived that there must necessarily be no small difficulty in controlling a body of such different tempers and habits.

Sir R. Fergusson had always observed that the best discipline was preserved in those regiments where corporal punishment was least frequently inflicted.

General Townshend was of opinion that gentlemen were much mistaken who thought that the discipline of the army could be maintained without corporal punishment.

The House then divided, and the numbers were—

Ayes, 47; Noes, 99.—Majority, 52.

Friday, Feb. 17, Sir G. Clerk moved that the order of the day be read for the House resolving itself into a committee of supply, to consider of the navy estimates. It was read accordingly.

On the question that the Speaker do leave the chair,

Mr Hume rose, and after reminding the House of the report of the finance committee of 1816, and the language of Lord Castlereagh, in both of which it was held out that the public expenditure of the country would not exceed 17,350,000*l.* complained that in every year subsequently to that period this expenditure had been very considerably increased; so that last year it was 3,000,000*l.* more than in 1818. The House ought not to go into a committee until the Chancellor of the Exchequer had stated the amount of the resources of the country, and what taxes he meant to reduce, for it was not possible for the country to sustain the same load of taxation in a metallic currency as it could in a paper one. The naval establishments of all the nations in the world, taken together, did not amount to one half of our own. The whole number of line-of-battle ships in the American navy was only seven, whereas the number of our ships of war was 509. The hon. member concluded by moving an amendment to the following effect, viz.—“That it is desirable, before the House shall vote any part of the naval and military establishments for the year, that the extent of those establishments and the estimates of them should be laid before the House, particularly as the estimates for the navy this year exceeded those for the last.”

Colonel Davies having seconded the amendment,

The Chancellor of the Exchequer contended that it would be more expedient to go first into the committee, and ascertain item by item why the estimates of the present year exceeded those of the last.

Mr Hume forbore to press his amendment to a division, and it was then negatived.

The House having then resolved itself into a committee of supply,

Sir G. Clerk observed, that the navy estimates of the present year were drawn up with every attention to economy. Owing to the great extension of our commerce with the nations of South America, the calls on the Admiralty for ships of war to afford it protection had very much increased. For the same reason, a necessity for increasing our force in the Mediterranean had risen out of the war now raging between the Greeks and the Turks. The situation of the Spanish West India Islands, also, required the presence of a force to put down the piratical squadrons which had recently cruized in their neighbourhood. A large force was also stationed off the coast of Africa, to put down the traffic in slaves, and another was stationed, for the same purpose, off the Cape of Good Hope. If the committee, therefore, would consider the various calls which were made upon the Admiralty, it would see that a force of 29,000 men was not more than sufficient,—indeed, that it scarcely was sufficient,—for the service. For the present year a force of 30,000 men was deemed absolutely necessary. A requisition had been presented to the Admiralty from the East India Company, praying that an additional naval force might be sent into the Indian seas, on account of the hostilities between the Burman empire and the East India Company. A thousand men was the force required by them. As that force was

sent into the Indian seas, not to protect British commerce, but to assist the East India Company, and to secure their territory, an arrangement was now in progress, by which the greater part of the expense of providing for it would be thrown upon the East India Company. They were to furnish the sum of 60,000*l.* for that purpose. The amount of the estimates for the present year showed an excess above those of the last, of 180,000*l.* One cause of this increase was the additional force of 1000 men. Another cause was, that the expense of victualling the navy had increased, in consequence of the advanced price of all kinds of provisions, and particularly of Irish pork and beef, of which the consumption was very considerable. An addition of 3*s.* a-month in the victualling of each man had therefore become necessary. The expense of the civil establishments of the navy had not increased; on the contrary, in some respects, it had considerably diminished. There was this year a diminution of 320,000*l.* under the head of wear and tear. Under the head of ordnance there was a considerable increase; but, in the two articles of wear and tear, and of ordnance put together, there was a saving of 30,000*l.* With regard to the head of ordnance of the navy, as it was a matter over which the Navy Board had no control, it had been omitted in these estimates. He did not think it necessary to say anything on the ordinary estimates of the navy, as they were the same as last year. Ministers had reduced them to the lowest possible scale; and a proof of it was, that with a force of 30,000 men, our expenditure would not be greater than in 1821, when we had only a force of 23,000 men. There was one item which was inserted in these estimates for the first time for some years; and that was an item for

the mending and repairing of ships at Bombay. After the year 1822, this item had disappeared from the list; but the quality of the Indian timber had been found so excellent, the labour so cheap, and the workmanship so completely equal to that of our dockyards at home, that it had been deemed expedient to continue the building of vessels at Bombay. In the extra-estimates would be found an account of the sums to be expended upon works of the yards. He had stated on a former occasion, respecting the works at Sheerness, that if government were provided with funds to finish them in four instead of ten years, it would make about a saving of 14 per cent to the public. The cost of erecting the proposed works had been calculated by the late Mr Rennie at 921,000*l.*, but an offer had since been made to government, to complete them in four years for 780,000*l.* The plan containing that offer appeared so beneficial to the public, that government had no hesitation in acceding to it; so that instead of calling on the committee for the vote originally mentioned for this head of expense, he should call upon it this year for a vote for 150,000*l.* There was an item of 50,000*l.* for completing the works of the breakwater, on which it was found necessary to employ a greater number of men than had yet been employed there. Under these two heads there was an increase of 181,000*l.* in the estimates. This, added to the increase of nearly 100,000*l.* for which he had before accounted, made a total increase of 281,000*l.*; from this was to be deducted a sum of 94,000*l.* voted on account of the ordnance stores last year, and not yet expended; so that the real increase of expense to the country, after making allowance for the ordnance, &c. would leave the estimates of the year great-

er than those of the last by 187,000*l*. The hon. baronet concluded by moving the following resolution: "That it is the opinion of this committee, that 30,000 men be employed for the service of his Majesty's fleet for 13 lunar months, commencing the first day of January, 1826, including 9000 Royal Marines."

Mr Hume observed, that it was difficult for him to say whether 29,000 or 30,000 men were the exact number required for the sea-service. But he could not understand why the number should be increased. When he objected to the increase of our naval force three years ago, the right hon. Secretary for Foreign Affairs said that it was impossible to protect our commerce with the states of South America without a large disposable force, on account of the unsettled nature of their governments, and their war with the parent state. He was now surprised at hearing the same cause alleged for another increase, when these states were at peace with one another, their struggle with the parent state at an end, and three distinct treaties of peace made between us and them. The revenue at home required protection, because they kept up a system of high duties, and so spent, in maintaining the preventive service, a sum larger than that which would have been lost to the revenue by establishing a system of low duties. The keeping up a naval squadron on the coast of Africa, appeared to him to be a measure that ought to be dispensed with: of every negro whom they intercepted, for they could not save them from slavery, the purchase was the life of an English sailor. On the whole, he thought that 30,000 men were not wanted for the service of the navy. The hon. gentleman made a number of other objections to the resolution; after which, the resolution was put and agreed to.

The motion for a grant of 955,500*l*. for the wages of 30,000 men for 13 lunar months, was then put, and agreed to.

On the motion for a grant of 682,500*l*. for the victuals of the said men,

Mr Hume asked, why this estimate was higher than that of the last year, since everything was now admitted to be considerably cheaper?

Sir George Clerk thought he had explained that a great increase had taken place in many of the articles of provision. In salt beef particularly, which was one of the chief articles, there was a difference of 16 per cent from the prices of 1824; it being then 6*l*. 2*s*. 6*d*. a-tierce, and now 7*l*. 6*s*. 9*d*.

The motion was then agreed to.

On the motion for a grant of 835,957*l*., the charge for timber and all other materials for the building, repair, and fitting of all his Majesty's ships, &c.

Sir I. Coffin asked, whether any inquiry had been made on the subject of the ships in the navy which were said to have the dry rot, particularly those mentioned by Mr Burridge in his petition lately presented to parliament?

Sir T. B. Martin said, the ships of the British navy were the soundest in the whole world, and that those alluded to had not the dry rot.

Sir George Cockburn said, it was true, that in the course of the last war, in consequence of the exigencies of the times, ships had been run up in a great hurry, and little attention was paid to the sort of wood employed about them. The consequence was, that the dry rot attacked many of them. Now, however, all new ships had been built with well-seasoned timber, and all the work done under cover, and many of them, he was sure, were better now than

they were on the day they were built; and every precaution had been taken to prevent the possibility of premature decay.

Sir G. Clerk then moved that the sum of 896,000*l.* be granted to his Majesty for defraying the expense of the half-pay of the unemployed officers of his Majesty's fleet for 1826.

Mr Gordon complained that officers of the navy on half-pay were subjected to a species of tax which applied to no other officers in his Majesty's service. He alluded to their being compelled to pay certain fees on obtaining leave of absence to go abroad.

Mr Croker said, that the practice alluded to had been adopted in order to operate as a check upon officers going abroad.

The Chancellor of Exchequer stated, that for his part, he had no objection to give up the small sum of 150*l.* or 200*l.* a-year, which was derived from the fees. At the same time he could give no opinion with respect to the principle on which the practice was founded.

Mr Hume objected to the expenditure of any more money upon Sheerness dock-yard. He would now move, by way of amendment, that the estimate be reduced 150,000*l.*; and would move in a day or two for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the subject.

The resolution was agreed to.

Tuesday, February 21.—Mr Broden appeared at the bar with the report of the committee of supply relative to the navy estimates, which was ordered to be brought up.

The resolution, granting 30,000 seamen for the sea-service for 13 calendar months, was then read a first time.

On the motion that it be read a second time,

Mr Hume said that he must oppose the naval or any other establishment being formed on so large a scale as his Majesty's ministers seemed inclined to propose at the present moment. He wished to know whether there was any prospect of a return to what might fairly be denominated a peace establishment? At this awful moment, when distress and difficulty threatened the land in every direction—when no immediate relief appeared in view—when thousands and tens of thousands were in a state of destitution and want, it would well become his Majesty's ministers to reflect a little on what they were about to do. They were now going on increasing the burdens of the country, without any reason whatsoever being assigned for their conduct; and he believed if 12,000,000*l.* instead of 6,000,000*l.* were demanded for the naval service, it would be at once voted, although 2,000,000*l.* had been found sufficient at the end of former wars. From the estimate now before the House, they learned, that a sum of 6,297,000*l.*, including the receipts for old stores, was to be expended on the navy for the current year. This was more than the estimate for the last two or three years: and the system of wasteful expenditure which was now adopted could not be carried on, unless ministers made up their minds, ere long, to rob the public creditor. The hon. gentleman concluded by moving, "That this House cannot take into consideration the report of the naval estimates of this, the 11th year of peace, amounting to 6,135,000*l.*, without expressing their concurrence in the opinion which the committee of finance of 1818, expressed in their 8th report, in the following words: 'that ships, military stores, &c. were not only necessary to the glory of the country in the event of war, but that finances re-

cruited during peace are at least of equal importance; but that a strict regard to financial arrangements, by which wealth and industry were generally diffused through the nation, and by the operation of which the people were relieved as far as was practicable, from their burdens, was of equal importance: on these grounds, the House recommends to the ministers of the Crown the reconsideration of the naval estimates, in order that they may be reduced, in consonance with the opinion of the finance committee, above recited, and the better to suit the present circumstances of the country."

Lord John Russell seconded the amendment.

Sir G. Cockburn was surprised that the honourable member (Mr Hume) should have asserted, that no reason had been given for the increase in the navy estimates. He begged the hon. member to recollect that his hon. friend (Sir G. Clerk) in bringing those estimates forward, had stated that the increase this year was owing to the war in India, and to the necessity which existed for keeping up a naval force in various parts of the world. The general state of the commerce of the country was such, that ministers could not withhold this force, without creating general discontent amongst the merchants. There was no part of the world in which the commerce of Great Britain was not going on at this moment; and armed ships had been sent abroad for the purpose of protecting that commerce. The Admiralty took care to see that those vessels were properly distributed. They were obliged to send ships up the Mediterranean, where the British were likely to be attacked by the beligerents on both sides. Again it was necessary to station vessels of war in the West Indies, and they were like-

wise called for on the coast of Africa. There was no part of the world in which a British naval force was not looked up to for protection. If that House were filled with merchants, he was convinced they would all rise with one accord, and bear testimony to the benefits they had derived from the system pursued by the Admiralty. The hon. member had stated, that the claim of no man was listened to at the Admiralty, unless he possessed family interest. He (Sir G. C.) denied the charge altogether. He attended himself at the Admiralty in rotation; and he would say, that no person, from the highest to the lowest, ever asked to see him, whom he did not see, and whose business he did not hear. And he would tell the hon. member, in the face of the House and of the country, that he paid less attention to a man who had family interest than to one who was without it. He would say more. He would tell the hon. member,—and many officers would bear witness to the fact—that when men without interest had stated their cases to him, he had done his utmost to bring them forward.

Mr Robertson complained, that on so important a vote there was not a minister of the crown in his place. The apology for keeping up a large naval force made by the hon. lord of the Admiralty, was totally inadequate—namely, the war in India.

Sir C. Cole defended the Admiralty from the charge of an unfair use of favour and affection in promotions.

Mr Herries complained that this was an unfair application of that great but just and necessary power which the House had of disputing the estimates. This was at once to stop the progress of public business.

Mr Tremayne felt himself compelled, from a sense of the public dis-

ness, and the necessity of more economy in the finance, to support the amendment.

Mr Hobhouse had no wish to embarrass the measures of government: on the contrary, he had voted with them on every occasion during the session, excepting last night, when they introduced a measure which tended to subvert their own principles. This was another occasion upon which he felt bound to oppose them. Our establishments were too large. There was but one opinion out of doors, that such establishments could not be kept up for any continuance of time, especially if ministers were resolved to persevere in that measure, which he must deem on their parts

an eminently wise one, of returning to a metallic currency.

On a division, the numbers were—
For Mr Hume's amendment, 15—
For the original motion, 43—Majority, 28.

On the motion that the sum of 896,000*l.* be granted to his Majesty for defraying the expense of the half-pay of the unemployed officers of his Majesty's fleet,

Sir Christopher Cole rose to express his regret at the hardships which half-pay officers of the navy were obliged to undergo, in consequence of their being obliged to employ themselves in other professions, owing to the very inadequate provision afforded to them by government.

CHAPTER V

Corn Laws.—Silk Trade.—Navigation Laws.

At a very early period of the session, ministers declared their determination not to bring the Corn Laws that session under the consideration of Parliament; notwithstanding which, innumerable petitions both for and against an alteration of these laws, were presented to both Houses of Parliament, which occasionally led to very animated and angry discussions. The distress of the manufacturing districts having at length reached a most deplorable height, ministers appear to have been induced by that circumstance to relax a little from their first determination, and to introduce into parliament two bills, one for the liberation of bonded corn, at certain duties, and for a limited time; the other for authorizing the Privy Council to admit the importation of 500,000 quarters of foreign wheat during the recess of parliament, should circumstances occur to render the measure expedient. The alleged grounds of these two measures were a supposed deficiency in the stock of corn in the country, owing to the earliness of the previous harvest, and the prospect of a late and deficient harvest in the current year; should which prospect be realized, corn, it was maintained, might reach to famine prices. How much truth there was in these grounds we do not take it upon ourselves to say; but we are inclined to suspect that one

great reason of the two measures was a wish, on the part of ministers, to extend a boon to the working classes, (whose feelings had ever been exasperated against the Corn Laws,) for the patience with which most of them had endured their very trying privations; and to give them a proof that the Legislature sympathized in their distresses. It was for that reason alone, indeed, that several members of both Houses supported the measure, though, viewing them apart from it, they could not acknowledge either their efficacy or their expediency. It was distinctly declared by ministers that the two measures were meant to be temporary in their nature, and that any decision which Parliament might come to regarding them, should not at all compromise the question as to the principle of the Corn Laws, which was to be left as open for discussion as ever.

In the House of Commons, May 1, Mr Canning spoke as follows:—"I rise, sir, to give notice of my intention to submit to the House, to-morrow, a measure for some modification in the Corn Laws, with reference to the existing distresses in the manufacturing districts. The accounts received this morning of the sufferings of the people, in these districts, are such a must deeply affect every human

heart not altogether callous to the distresses of our fellow-creatures. Whatever may be the expediency of interfering in this way for their relief upon general principles, there are some cases of such peculiar hardship, that they call for extraordinary measures for the immediate alleviation of the calamity, as far as that can possibly be done by any regulations that can be adopted. The measure which I intend to propose appears to me the best calculated to meet the existing evil, and the least objectionable in point of principle that can, at present, be devised. In the neighbourhood of the places in which the distress is most severely felt—in the ports of Liverpool, Hull, and other seaports—there is a considerable quantity of bonded corn, which cannot, as the law at present stands, be brought out for sale in this country. What I propose is, that a law should be passed for enabling the proprietors of bonded corn to bring their grain into the market. The amount of bonded wheat is understood to be from 250,000 to 300,000 quarters; and the infusion of this quantity into the corn market may prove beneficial to the people, without any material injury to the agricultural interests. But as we cannot, at this time, be sure of the state of the next harvest, I mean further to propose, that in the bill to be submitted on this subject a clause should be inserted to enable his Majesty in Council to open the ports for the admission of foreign corn, either partially or generally, at the discretion of government, during the recess of parliament, in case such a measure should appear to be necessary or expedient. With respect to the opening of the ports—if that shall be found expedient—I propose, that the minor duty of twelve shillings per quarter should be imposed upon foreign grain imported into this country. I believe the regular mode of proceeding will be, to move to-morrow that the House go

into a committee on the Corn Act of 3d Geo. IV., with a view to the introduction of the measure now in contemplation; but I wish it to be distinctly understood, that I do not mean to propose any alteration in that act, beyond the two points which I have mentioned.”

Mr Tierney rose to express his great gratification at the measure proposed, and his entire concurrence in its propriety.

On Mr Canning's, next day, moving the order of the day for the House resolving itself into a committee on 3d Geo. IV. cap. 60, respecting the corn laws,

Sir T. Lethbridge said, to the first proposition of the right hon. gentleman, that of letting out the corn in bond on paying a duty of 12s. per quarter, there might be no objection; but it was to the next proposal, that of enabling government to permit the importation of foreign corn at their discretion, that he wanted now to call attention, because it involved the whole principle of the Corn Laws. But a little fortnight ago, when an hon. member (Mr Whitmore) had proposed to deal with the whole system of the corn laws, the proposition had been overruled by a large majority. He would ask what had arisen since to justify the alteration which had taken place in the opinion of ministers? The distress now complained of existed then, and it was only because it had been of longer duration, that it was now greater. There had been no rioting then, and he had heard, he did not pretend to say how truly, that the cause of the riot since, might be in a great measure attributed to the manner in which that question had been treated in the House. He, however, was much more disposed to attribute those riots to the distress. —Much was to be hoped in relief of the present distress, from the charity of individuals. The poor-rates were also available. Even, if it were necessary, a pecuniary grant might be proposed, in aid of the poor-rates; and

for his own part, he was of opinion that it would have been a much more rational and justifiable course than that which was now contemplated. It was stated by the right hon. gentleman that the quantity of corn now in the country under bond, consisted of 250,000 or 300,000 quarters. He had reason to suppose that the quantity was underrated: and from the account given by Mr Jacob, he found that 600,000 quarters formed about one week's consumption in England; whence, supposing this statement to be correct, it was obvious that the introduction of such a quantity as was said to be in bond, could have little effect in alleviating the present distress. He therefore thought, that under the pretext which was held out, the real object was to get rid of the Corn Laws by a side-wind. He was sure that imposing a duty of 12s. a-quarter on foreign corn, would have the immediate effect of throwing out of cultivation a vast quantity of land, and that distress similar to that which had been felt in 1821 and 1822 would again be experienced. Would it be said that the manufacturers were entitled to the protection which it was now proposed to give them, at the expense of other and not less important interests? It was plain, from Mr Jacob's report, that the continental growers of corn regulated all their operations by the state of the British market. So long as they could command high prices in the markets of this country, the corn growers of the continent encouraged their crops. When, in 1821 and 1822, their importations were checked, the cultivation of corn was given up, and wool was grown to a great extent instead. It appeared by the returns, that in 1821, 7 millions of pounds weight of wool were imported; in 1822, 11 or 12 millions; in 1824, 18 millions, and in 1825, 42 millions. Who then could doubt that the immediate consequence of the proposed mea-

sure must be to reduce the importation of wool, and to increase the importation of corn? Without going further into the principles of free trade than as applied to corn, he contended that it was impossible to put that upon the footing of other articles until it had been relieved from the burdens which it at present bore to the same extent. Let the House look at the expenses which the country had to pay. Look at the amount of the annual revenue; look at our immense establishments, and say whether it was possible to make corn cheap. They must consider that they had 30 millions yearly to pay the public creditors.

Mr Bennet said, that even those who advocated this measure did not pretend that it would remedy the distress. If, then, it was not likely to act as a remedy, what could be said to induce the House to adopt it? He was much more disposed to attribute the distress to the change in the currency than to the Corn Laws. If the price of corn was not greatly reduced, the present measure would not alleviate the distress; and if it should be reduced to a considerable extent, it would transfer the distress from the manufacturing to the agricultural classes.

Mr Canning assured the hon. member (Mr Bennet) that no man could think more unworthily of ministers than they would think of themselves, if there were any foundation for the charge, that they were attempting, by a side-wind, to alter the established system of the Corn Laws. For the present measure, he proposed it under peculiar circumstances, without the slightest reference to the merits of the general question. There existed in this country a large quantity of corn, which had been imported under a law which forbade its coming at present into circulation; upon the very site of the granaries in which this corn was lying, there was a grinding and destructive

distress; then could there be a question as to the propriety of at once letting that corn into circulation, and so gaining a considerable immediate relief at little or no sacrifice on the part of the community? This was the first part of the measure proposed: the second was to give government a power, prospectively, to admit foreign corn, in case an extreme necessity should make it, in their estimation, advisable to do so. Now, he was no alarmist as to the quantity of corn in the country, nor did he know how far prices were likely to rise; but for the last six weeks, no matter from what cause, we had had a rising market; and there were symptoms of a rising market still. This was so clearly the case, that he thought that the bonded corn admitted would have no more effect than to prevent a farther rise. As the law stood, if, between this time and August next, corn did not rise in price to 80s., whatever the distress or inconvenience, nothing could be done. It might rise to 79s., and the distress might be most pressing, and still no relief could be had. To provide against these contingencies, government now desired to be furnished with authority. Personally, they felt the power to be an infliction, but it was one which they preferred submitting to, to incurring the risk of mischief.—The observations of the hon. member (Mr Bennet) as to amount of duty, seemed to him founded in error, because the question was not one of amount: a reviving trade, with a high price, would assist the country more than a modified price with the existing state of commercial affairs.

Mr Bankes said, that there was a prevailing opinion among the lower classes, that they were suffering from the operation of the Corn Laws; the right hon. gentleman, who denied in words that this opinion was well-founded, admitted it in spirit; for it was by tam-

pering with the Corn Laws that he proposed to relieve the distress. What would the letting in of the bonded corn avail? Suppose it reduced corn to 30s. a-quarter, how would that help people who had no money to buy it at any price?

Mr Robertson thought that the measure proposed would serve only to aggravate the existing evil. The distress arose from a failure of demand consequent upon the recent commercial distresses, and from the glut of British manufactures which existed in all the markets of the world. If the bonded corn was allowed to be brought into the country, the agricultural interest would take the alarm, and a panic would follow its introduction, which it would not be easy to allay. He had a proposition to submit to the House, which would extend the most effectual relief to the distressed manufacturers, without injuring the interests of the landed proprietors. He proposed that the House should grant a sum of money—he would name half a million—which should be placed at the disposal of government for the relief of the distressed districts. The way in which this relief could be best effected would be to let government, with this sum, purchase the bonded corn, and the money collected in subscriptions throughout the country might repurchase this corn for the relief of the starving manufacturers at 30s., or less than half its present price; and not only would that measure produce the effect of alleviating the present misery, but it could be effected without injuring in any way the landed interest.

Mr Whitmore.—Under the present afflicting circumstances, he was of opinion that the measure proposed by government would have the best effect; and, looking at the existing distress, he was persuaded, that if Parliament separated without alleviating that distress

as far as might be practicable, consequences the most disastrous would follow.

Colonel Wood said, that in answer to the hon. gentleman's (Mr Whitmore's) observation that this country had hardly grown corn equal to its consumption, he would state that for the last seven years the country had been living on its own produce, and no importation had taken place.—He had no objection to let out the bonded corn at 12s.; but he thought it impossible to look at the discretionary power which was proposed to be invested in government with respect to the importation of foreign grain, without reference to the Corn Laws.

Lord Milton.—Unless he was much mistaken as to these calamities and their causes, the remedy now proposed had no relation to them. It was not want of food which was the grievance. The manufacturing interests were now suffering the extremity of distress which had assailed every commercial house about six months ago. It was not a want of food, neither was it a want of capital in the country; the real want was a want of credit; and his complaint against ministers throughout the session was, that their measures had a tendency to destroy the remaining credit of the country, and to prevent its revival. With respect to the proposition for a vote of money to relieve the distressed population, his opinion was, that if private individuals were called upon to subscribe, the Legislature should come forward. Paupers were entitled to parochial relief: in the present case, the manufacturers of Lancashire were the paupers, and the state was the parish.

Mr Calcraft thought that no measure was more likely than the present to create disunion between the agricultural and manufacturing interests. Taking off the restriction on foreign corn would have no effect in relieving the

distress; neither could individual subscriptions do it. When it was recollected what had been done for the Russians and the Hanoverians, the artisans would think it strange that Parliament did not do something for them. He hoped that ministers would not persevere in the second proposition, but that a vote would pass for the relief of the distressed manufacturers.

Sir J. Newport would vote for the committee, on the express condition that it be an instruction to it, that after considering the question as to letting out the bonded corn, it should afterwards take into consideration the general question of the Corn Laws, in order to see how far the second measure proposed would be proper, under present circumstances.—He would add, that whatever might be expected from the issuing of bonded corn, it was his opinion that it would be ineffectual unless accompanied with a pecuniary grant.

Lord J. Russell thought it was matter of just complaint against ministers, that they had a few days ago refused to interfere with the Corn Laws during the present year, and now proposed a direct interference, as a necessary means of relief. As to the letting out the bonded corn, the necessity of such a measure would of course depend upon the stock of corn now in the country. He was of opinion that the corn about to be brought into market would not have much effect in lowering the price of corn. He would now come to the second measure—that of giving to Government the power of opening the ports during the recess. He for one would hesitate before he left such a power to the discretion of ministers—a power which, by opening the ports even at the duty of 17s., might in the course of a few months so fill the country with foreign corn, as to destroy the agricultural interests for years to come.

Mr Huskisson said, that honourable members appeared to have caught the notion, that government intended to proclaim to the country that the present distress arose from the operation of the Corn Laws. He must repeat, what he had always said, that those laws were not the cause of the distress, and he should be able to satisfy the House that the present measure was not proposed on any such assumption. A few facts would be sufficient on this point, and he would, therefore, call the attention of the House to the state of the country at the corresponding period of last year. At that period, when the most active employment prevailed in the cotton trade, corn was 6*s.* or 7*s.* higher per quarter than it was at present. When corn was so much lower now, it followed as naturally as effect could follow cause, that its price had no direct effect on the condition of the manufacturers. The price of corn, therefore, was not the cause of the distress. But it was said that want of credit was the cause: if so, how could that be remedied, unless by an increased demand? Now, if the proposed measure would so reduce the price of corn, or prevent its rising beyond its present price, it would accomplish no inconsiderable good. A similar measure, in one respect at least, was proposed last year, and received the sanction of the legislature. In the six weeks before the measure to which he alluded the prices of corn were—in the first week, 68*s.*; in the second week, 68*s.* 9*d.*; in the third week, 69*s.*; in the fourth week, 68*s.*; in the fifth week, 67*s.*; and in the sixth, 66*s.* 6*d.* Now, under these circumstances of a falling price, the legislature sanctioned the letting out into the market between 4 and 500,000 quarters of bonded corn, not because the price was then considered too high, but to prevent the chance of its rising so high as to open the ports, and inundate the country with foreign

corn. When this was done in 1825, from such motives, was it too much to ask in the present state of distress, to guard against the danger of corn rising to a very high price; especially when they considered that in 1825, corn was falling, whereas in the last six weeks it had risen? He now came to the second, and as he perceived the more objectionable measure. By the returns of the several towns from which the averages were made up, it appeared that the supply in the market was now less by several hundred thousand quarters, when compared with the same period of last year. He would contend, therefore, that it was not a visionary assertion, that between this time and the approaching harvest, the country might be placed in difficulties of which the consequences might be most serious. Let it be borne in mind, that without the measure now proposed, corn might rise, not merely to 80*s.*, but to 100*s.*, and still the ports could not by law be opened before the first week after the 15th of August, unless parliament were called together in the interim. But suppose parliament were called together. Would that be a proper time to enter into a discussion on the Corn Laws, when famine stalked through the land? Was it not, therefore, better to provide in time, and not to depend on such contingencies? Let not gentlemen go away with the impression, that by the adoption of this measure, the ports must necessarily be opened. They would remain shut, unless such circumstances occurred as would render their opening necessary. If it should be thought right to add to the limitation of time and circumstances the limitation of price—as, for instance, that the ports should not be opened unless the price were at 65*s.*—he would say, that for that or for any other prudent limitation which parliament might give them in the exercise of the power which it intrusted to their hands, he

for one should be thankful. If parliament refused ministers that power, those who induced it so to act would incur a responsibility, of which they would do well to contemplate the extent. He protested beforehand against the consequences which must ensue, if, for three months or more, government should be left without the power of relieving a starving population by the introduction of foreign corn. He knew that there had been a glut of our manufactures in all the foreign markets. It was in the cotton manufacture that a market was most particularly wanted. Now he believed, he might say, that two-thirds of our cotton manufactured goods were made for the foreign market. If, therefore, an increase of the foreign demand could be created by the purchase of corn, relief would be administered to the cotton manufacturer.

Mr E. Wodehouse said a few words, inculcatory of Mr Jacob's report.

The House then divided. For the amendment, 82—Against it, 214—Majority against the amendment, 132.

The House then went into a committee, when the resolutions were proposed as follows :—

1st. "That all foreign corn, meal, and flour, which was secured in warehouses in the United Kingdom on the 2d May, 1826, shall be admitted to entry for home consumption on payment of the following duties (that is to say) ;

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
For every quarter of wheat	12	0
For every quarter of rye, pease, and beans	8	0
For every quarter of barley, bear, and big	6	0
For every quarter of oats	4	0
For every cwt. of wheat, meal, and flour	3	3

2d. "That it is expedient to empower his Majesty, by any order of his Majesty in Council, to permit, under

certain regulations, and for a time to be limited, the entry for home consumption of an additional quantity of foreign corn, meal, or flour; subject to the duties which may be imposed by any act to be passed in this session of Parliament."

The first resolution was then put, and agreed to unanimously; and several members desiring that the second resolution should not be passed without further discussion,

Mr Canning consented to adjourn the committee.

On Friday May 5, the House being in committee,

Mr Canning :—"Before I proceed to an explanation of the resolution which I am about to propose, I will clear away some general objections to which the whole of the measures have been subjected. Most undoubtedly, I did, on the first day of the present session, make a declaration, which I have often renewed since, that I was of opinion that the present was not a convenient season to enter into a consideration of the corn trade, with a view of making any alteration in the laws which affected it. Upon that opinion I have acted throughout the session; and I now declare without hesitation that it still remains unchanged. And still more, that if any one will consider these resolutions without prejudice, he will find that they are characterised by a strict conformity with such an opinion, and solely intended to enable ministers and this House, without inconvenience, to postpone any consideration of those laws until another session. I hope I have cleared the question from some of those impediments, with regard to its proposers, which stood in the way of a free and impartial discussion of its merits, and that the proposition will now, at least, be allowed to stand upon its own grounds. I hope it will not be considered an unfair inference, that if I shew

what we have already done, and the expectation of what we are about to do, to be producing great good, I may be allowed to anticipate still greater from the consummation of our intentions. The account of what we proposed upon the subject of the corn trade reached Liverpool on Wednesday morning; and on this day there are letters in town, one of which was put into my hand just before I came down to the House. It is not from any friend of mine, nor an acquaintance, nor a political supporter either of mine or of my right honourable friend. I know him, however, to be a man of high honour, unquestioned integrity, and possessing great estimation as a mercantile character in the city where he resides. In this letter he says, there has been a slight improvement to-day in Manchester goods, but the moment it became known that it was the intention of ministers to introduce a measure for relief, by removing the restrictions which kept the bonded corn out of the market, cotton could not be obtained at an advance of 5 per cent, and there seemed to be a very general restoration of confidence, arising from the feeling that government would do all in their power to relieve the sufferers. This is the language of one letter. Since I entered the House, however, I have received another, which is also not addressed to me, nor to any friend of mine, and (although I am not quite certain) I believe the writer to be opposed to me in politics. I know, however, that he is a person of respectability. His letter, dated the 3d of May, runs thus: "The account of what has been proposed by ministers has made us all alive, and led to a very general improvement in trade. Holders of cotton are all speculating upon a rise, and there are no sellers to-day." Surely it cannot be said, after this, that the measure recommended is not founded upon good principles; and even if the practical

effect may be in some measure overrated, it must be a matter of congratulation to its proposers, and an encouragement to their perseverance, when they see that the expectation of its effects is likely to produce a return of that confidence, without which the manufacturers cannot hope to be rescued from their present difficulties. I am quite prepared to admit that, because there is so much good anticipated from the first proposition—that of the admission of bonded corn—we are not therefore to infer that this is an argument for the second proposition. The good of the first proposition is plain and immediate; that to be anticipated from the second is distant, and depends on contingencies; but, although the second may rest upon a somewhat different foundation, they tend to the same ends. Every one knows that, for three weeks before the honourable member (Mr Whitmore) made his motion, there had been a gradual inclination to a rise in price; for three weeks since there has been the same; so that for six weeks—with the exception, I believe, of the last few days, when we can mark a slight decline—a constant tendency to rise has been visible in the corn market; and that rise has been accompanied by a state of terror and alarm, which, although I do not mean to make any prophecies of famine, indicates an approach to a state which no man can contemplate with satisfaction. When we consider that the consumption of the last year began even before the getting in of the harvest, and that the harvest of this year may be a month later than the last, I say, that there is ground for an apprehension which would not exist in ordinary times. Let us take with that the circumstances which have occurred in the manufacturing districts, and there, I say, we may find that there are matters of more than ordinary importance, which did not exist when the subject was discussed before, and point

out to us the propriety of making such an amendment, as may guard against possible consequences. How far those consequences may operate I do not pretend to predict—a fortnight of mild weather and a west wind may avert all probable danger; while half the time may be the parent of famine. In a former year (1816) a change of one night destroyed our expectations,* and the promise of the Monday was totally blighted by the succeeding Wednesday. I would call upon the House to consider what government has done on somewhat similar occasions; and I mean, for that purpose, to take a very remarkable occurrence of the last century—not more to be held up as an example to this House, than to be contemplated, with attention, as a warning. In the beginning of 1766, Lord Chatham, the most distinguished man of his day, was the leading member of the government in this House; while Lord Camden, the most popular lawyer who ever sat upon the bench, appeared at the head of the peers. Never had this country seen so popular—never so commanding an administration; scarcely any who could lay claim, with such apparent hope of escaping censure, to the exercise of that power which has been, I think, a little too loosely stated by some honourable members, when they advised us to take measures for infringing the law, under the pretence of the *salus populi*, as inherent in the Crown. Those great men, however, relying on their high favour with the nation, did take this course; and, by an order in council, took upon themselves the responsibility of giving their resolution the effect of law. The course which they pursued was very different from that which we are called upon to adopt. The harvest had proved a bad one; there was an apprehension of a famine, and they had, in the performance of their duty—for this occurred during the recess—to do the very converse of that

for which we require the power of parliament—they had to shut those ports which it would be necessary for us to open. When parliament met, the exercise of such a power by this popular ministry, produced the most violent debates; and while every man who took any part in them, admitted the absolute necessity of what had been done, the greater portion regarded it as a violation of the principles of the Constitution, as an extension of the prerogative of the Crown, and these attacks were actually successful in both Houses. Here, then, is a warning to us; and though the circumstances are not quite the same, are we, after this, to be blamed, because we do not think our course sufficiently secure without subjecting it to the approbation of parliament? There are gentlemen who say we have not done right to come before parliament, and that we ought to wait the possibility of any contingency which may happen, and then act upon our discretion. They say to us, “Go on—let the circumstances arise—then use the power of the Crown in the emergency, and come down to us for a Bill of Indemnity.” If then, I ask, those circumstances had happened, and we, relying on the precedent before us, had exercised this power—would this Bill of Indemnity, I ask, have been readily granted? Who that has witnessed the spirit in which we have been catechised here for the mere attempt to ask for that power—can say so? What earnest have we here, I ask, of the spirit and the tone in which we should be treated, if, instead of asking for permission to exercise that power, upon a contingency which may never arise, we were now beseeching this House to grant us indemnity for having exercised it upon a contingency which had arisen, and without that permission which we now call upon it to confer. No other course, therefore, remained to us, but to come at once for the sanction of par-

liament. I say, that those who now refuse us their sanction, must take on themselves the consequences of whatever license we may be compelled to usurp. As to the extensive discretion which this measure proposes to give, I can safely assure the House that there is no mode of limiting that discretion on one hand; and on the other, of maintaining a faithful adherence to the assurance which has been given, of not discussing this session, and not interfering with the principle of the Corn Laws, which we would not gladly adopt and which we do not anxiously solicit. As to the responsibility which the act would confer, there are three modes by which its exercise may be regulated: the first by the imposition of a duty; the second by a restriction of price—that is, the price at which importation should be permitted; the third by a limitation of quantity. When first I brought forward this measure, I was inclined in favour of the imposition of a precise duty of 12s. But it has been objected to that course, that it would have the effect of fixing 12s. as a duty in future, when it was intended only to apply to the present case. It was also urged that we had taken too low a *maximum*. I admit that there is a great deal in both these objections; and feeling their force, I consent to sink the limitation of duty. As to the limitation of price—by which it was meant that the importation should not take place until corn had reached a certain price—it was suggested 65s.—it was liable to the same objection, that it might be assumed hereafter as the importation price. Besides, the fixing any absolute price was liable to this further objection, that what was a fair price at one period might not be so at another. In relation to the state of the country, 65s. or any absolute sum, might be sometimes high and sometimes low. For this reason, and for the purpose of maintaining throughout good faith with

those who might think the fixing a price would be the infringement of the conditions of any previous pledge, or understanding, I consent to place no restriction upon it. There remains but one other mode—that relating to quantity; and on the quantity of imported grain, and on nothing but the quantity, do I propose to place a limitation. A discretionary power, so limited, will leave the future debates on the Corn Laws as free as if no discussion had now taken place, and as if no temporary measure had been resorted to, to relieve a temporary distress. I propose to admit something more than half the amount of the largest quantity that has ever been imported in one season—that is, 500,000 quarters, exclusive of what is now in bond. The principle upon which I propose this is, that as the warehouses are cleared, they may be again replenished; and that, ultimately, the same quantity may be admitted in bond as is now in the country. The act, then, (independent of the bonded corn which has been disposed of by the first resolution,) will render it lawful for his Majesty, at any time from the close of the present, and until the commencement of the next session of Parliament, by the advice of his Majesty's Privy Council, to issue any order for the permission of importing wheat, meal, or flour, into the different ports of this kingdom, provided the whole quantity so to be admitted do not exceed 500,000 quarters; and further, that any order so issued shall not continue in force more than two months from the time of its date; and that none of the benefits provided in the act shall accrue to the party to whom the order was granted, unless it were executed according to the specified terms, and on the performance of such conditions as were directed by it. This is the outline of the provisions of the act. It is not in our power to anticipate what exigency may arise to re-

quire the exercise of the provisions of this bill. In shaping its provisions to encounter such an exigency, we are, I think, free from the imputation of bad faith to the landed interest." The right honourable gentleman concluded by moving the second resolution.

Sir T. Lethbridge said, that the right honourable gentleman had shown no reasonable ground for apprehending any danger of famine during the recess, or before the next meeting of parliament. Surely 65s. was not a famine price? at any rate, if ministers thought so, their opinions differed widely from those entertained by government in 1822. If the average price during the recess should amount to 65s., he supposed they would consider themselves at liberty to open the ports to foreign corn, to the tune of 500,000 quarters. Upon the back of that was to be placed the quantity now in bond, which he believed had been under-rated at 400,000, quarters. Thus there would come upon the market little short of a million of quarters at a duty of 12s. the quarter. He put it to the government, whether, if such a quantity of corn was imported at this duty, they could ever after look for a higher duty? He pressed this on the particular attention of the House, for he believed if they lost sight of it now, they would have to repent it ever after.

Mr Portman did not believe that the high price of corn was in any degree the cause of the distress, which he attributed to the want of employment for the manufacturer, and the depression of general credit. With respect, however, to these resolutions, he must say that he was not disposed to take upon his shoulders, either for them or for himself, the responsibility which they must incur by such an opposition to this measure as the principle of it deserved.

Mr Peel.—Honourable members had argued, that it was of no use to lower

the price of corn, for the distressed manufacturers had no means of purchasing it at any price. Did they imagine that there was no class in the country between those who abounded in wealth, and those who were in the opposite extreme? But, with reference even to those who were deprived of the means of purchasing corn at any price, were they not supported by the contributions of the affluent?—and if the affluent were to support the distressed, was it of no consequence to either party, that the price of corn should be reduced?—Ministers were accused of an intention to invade the Corn Laws. For any prejudice to the general question, he denied that it could result, even in idea, from that measure: the very duty which was to be paid upon the importation was affixed arbitrarily, in such a way as to make it impossible that it should be construed into a principle—still less could it attach any weight to the argument that the present measures were dangerous, inasmuch as they might seem to be extorted by the clamour and violence of the people. No man could be more disposed than he was to counsel resistance, at all hazards, to clamour; but there were two kinds of courage—the courage to refuse that which was wrong, and the courage to do, in spite of misrepresentation, that which was right. For the clamours of the mob, he had no apprehensions from them. There was a moral energy in this country, that would always suppress the violence and defeat the designs of a mob. Where knowledge was extensively diffused throughout the population of a country, a mob could never acquire any permanent ascendancy. Let not, then, the House of Commons forbear to do that which was right from any pusillanimous apprehension that their motives should be misconstrued: and let the people have justice. It might be necessary to restrain the riotous, and even to pu-

nish the guilty ; but the privations in the main, to which the manufacturing classes had been subjected, had been borne with infinite firmness and endurance. The disturbances at Manchester and the neighbourhood had been greatly over-rated. It was in the power of a very few men to do a great deal of mischief in destroying power-looms. But where had these disturbances taken place ? In a small part only of the manufacturing country. He was convinced, that if any course was likely to procure a cool and impartial discussion of the Corn Laws next session, it was the success of the measure now before the House. Looking back to the case of 1766, which had been quoted by his right honourable friend, he found the circumstances connected with that occurrence peculiarly analogous to those belonging to the present. On this occasion, Lord Mansfield was represented to have expressed himself thus :—" I will say, in general, that he is not a moderate minister who will rashly decide in favour of prerogative, in a question where the rights of parliament are on the other side ; and I am sure he is not a prudent minister who, even in a doubtful case, commits the prerogative by a wanton experiment, to what degree the people will bear the extent of it. But, my lords, rashly and wilfully to claim or exercise as prerogative, a power clearly against law, is too great boldness for this country ; and of all things in the world, the suspending or dispensing power—that edged-tool which has cut so deep—is the last that any man in his wits would handle in England ;—that rock which the English history has warned against with such awful beacons ;—an attempt which lost one prince his crown, and another both his crown and his head, and which at length expelled their family out of this land of liberty to the regions of tyranny, as the only climate that suited their temper and genius :—a power, the exercise of

which stands branded as the subversion of the constitution, in the front of that truly great charter of your liberties—the Bill of Rights. A minister, who is not afraid of that power, is neither fit for the sovereign nor the subject. I love a bold minister, when he keeps in the true sphere. In times of distress and danger, boldness is a jewel ; and with joy I have seen bold, even wild enterprises succeed, though hardly within the die when undertaken. But the enemies of our country are the proper objects of our boldness, not the constitution." Now the power which ministers asked for was one that could be exercised without apprehension ; which, in fact, might possibly not be resorted to at all !—Looking at the subject in every point of view, he conceived that the rejection of the present measure would be fraught with serious mischief.

Lord Althorpe opposed the motion, because its effects would be to leave every man's farm at the discretion of ministers.

Colonel Davies expressed his intention of voting for the motion, although he did not approve of the conduct of ministers.

Mr Calcraft admitted that the present modified measure was far less objectionable than the original plan. It was no longer a settlement of the question of the Corn Laws by a side-wind. He saw, however, vast difficulties in the execution of the plan, but he waited for the details before he came to any final decision.

After a few remarks from Colonel Trench and others, the resolution was agreed to.

In the House of Commons, on May 8, on the motion that the report of the committee on the Corn Laws (Act 3, Geo. IV. c. 60) be now brought up,

Mr Heathcote opposed the motion.

Lord Belgrave said, that he could not approve of the motion. It had

been shown, that if the government should give the manufacturers the whole quantity of corn which it was proposed to admit, it would afford them no relief; to sell it, therefore, even at a reduced price, would be only to mock their sufferings.

Mr H. Sumner also objected to the motion.

Mr Stanley said, that if the honourable gentleman had lately come, as he (Mr S.) had done, from the distressed districts, and seen in those places where there was absolutely the least suffering, weavers working 15 hours a-day for 3s. a-week, he would hardly be disposed to resist any course which was likely to give them even a temporary relief. He had seen these weavers bearing their privations with a resolution which deserved the highest praise; and subsisting, with their families, upon one scanty meal of oatmeal a-day rather than apply to the parish for relief.

Colonel Wood was anxious, for the sake of the manufacturers themselves, not to ruin the home market by distressing the agriculturists. He wished that a price should be fixed—say, for instance, 70s.—at which ministers should at once have the power of opening the ports to the 500,000 quarters of corn.

Sir M. W. Ridley saw no peculiar necessity for the second branch of this measure now: as far as his information went, there had never been less likelihood of any approach to scarcity in the country.

Mr F. Lewis thought the measure likely to produce great immediate relief to the manufacturer, and incapable of doing the slightest injury to the agriculturists. It would doubly assist the trading interests; because it would render food cheap, and lead to the export of commodities.

Mr J. Smith said, that they who declared that the proposition made by ministers would injure the agricultural

interests, were bound to take a more extended view than they had done of the relation which that interest bore to other classes of the community.

Mr Baring could not agree to leave in the hands of government the power of shifting the price of corn. By the course proposed, neither the grower, the dealer, nor the consumer, would know what was to be the price of corn; it was left entirely at the will of his Majesty's government. They began the session by meddling with the currency, which they should have left alone; and if they had left it alone, all the difficulties, and all the distress, would long since have subsided. They would have heard nothing of want of food in Manchester and other parts of the country, and next year they might have safely retraced their steps with respect to the 17. notes. The reason the ship did not right herself, was the unfortunate meddling with the currency at the most inauspicious moment that could have been selected. The country was, in fact, suffering under the doctor rather than the disease. It appeared to be the feeling of almost everybody, that with open ports and a permanent duty, the corn trade might be safely and beneficially carried on; the only difficulty would be, to fix the amount of duty to be exacted, and the rate of price to which that duty should be applied. Now, though he was inimical to the present Corn Laws, he was not an enemy to a considerable degree of protection. He would suggest, that a duty of not less than 15s., or more than 18s., which would give protection to wheat at from 55s. to 60s. per quarter, might be found sufficient. In the early part of the session, the state of the currency was urged as a reason for not considering this question. The necessity of introducing gold to meet the deficit occasioned by the withdrawal of the 17. notes, was strongly dwelt on; and it was said, "If you introduce corn, you

cannot import gold." This argument could not now be put forward ; because the taking out of the bonded corn would set the merchants to fill the warehouses with fresh corn. Last year there were 400,000 or 500,000 quarters let out of bond, and there was also what was called a fine harvest. Yet they had, in the face of these circumstances, a certain evidence, not of an absolute scarcity—nor yet sufficient to produce a just alarm of scarcity—but quite sufficient to prove that this country did not grow enough for its own consumption. He wished to point out one considerable advantage which would accrue from beginning the experiment in the corn trade in the present year. It was evident from Mr Jacob's report, that the supply which could now be sent to England from the Continent was not very great. In making the experiment on the Corn Laws, a new rate of duty must be imposed ; and if that duty were very low, the foreign merchant had it not in his power this year to take advantage of it, and to inundate the English market. But when the foreign growers put their seed in the ground next year—and in their power of supplying this country he differed from Mr Jacob—knowing that England could not do without them, they would take care that there should be an abundant supply. His advice, therefore, was, that ministers should take the question up boldly, and that they should adopt some permanent principle, instead of having recourse to vacillating measures, as they had hitherto done.

Mr W. Whitmore must admit that the investing government with such a power as that of admitting 500,000 quarters of corn, without check or control, was calculated to produce very serious effects upon the agricultural interests. He feared that the knowledge of such power being placed in their hands, might produce unfortunate results amongst the farmers.

Mr Irving concurred in all that had fallen from the honourable member (Mr Baring) as to the causes that had produced the late calamitous distresses. Long before the month of November, or December, ministers ought to have taken some measures to prevent the evils not arising from what had been called over-trading, or speculation, but from a great and rapid reduction of the currency. He could not agree with the honourable member (Mr Baring) as to the operation of the Corn Laws. If he (Mr Irving) understood their sentiments, the farmers were well satisfied with the law as it stood ; it had worked well for them and for the country. The Corn Laws might not, indeed, square with the present fashionable system of political philosophy—they might not accord with the fanciful theories of the metaphysicians and reviewers of Edinburgh ; but, as a plain practical man, he could not help rejoicing in the continuance of a system which had benefited one class without doing injury to another.

Mr Huskisson.—He had stated on a former occasion, that the corn in bond proposed to be admitted into the market would not materially affect the prices. The great alarm, however, appeared to arise from the introduction of the 500,000 quarters. But gentlemen appeared to forget that it did not follow, from the vesting of this discretionary power in the government, that they were bound to admit this quantity of corn. No foreign corn would be admitted, unless the necessity of it should be evident. He begged to recall to the recollection of the House what had happened in 1816. In that year the harvest was very deficient ; and yet the ports were not opened till November, although the price of wheat was at 100s. per quarter. They remained shut during August, September, and October, notwithstanding the great advance of price ; and then, when the ports were

at length opened in November, other countries in which the harvest had been also deficient, came into competition with this country in the market, and prevented that ample supply that might otherwise have been obtained. He was as sensible as the honourable member (Mr Baring) of the inconvenience of this occasional legislation. But he challenged the staunchest supporters of the Corn Laws, to say, that under the present circumstances, these laws ought to be allowed to come into full operation. No one would venture to say so; and they were bound, therefore, to give this discretionary power to ministers, or adopt some other measure that might obviate so great a calamity.

Sir E. Knatchbull, for one, would have agreed to let out the bonded corn, in consideration of the present distresses; but representing a large portion of the landed interest of the country, he should consider that he compromised his duty if he gave the measure his full support.

Mr Canning must say, that even those who had entered into the greatest length of discussion on this subject, had kept far wide of the practical question. That question was this:—Here was a law for regulating the trade in corn, enacted under peculiar circumstances, such as perhaps justified the act, but a law of which the extreme provisions had never been suffered to come into operation. No man, however attached to the corn restrictions, had ventured to say, that the extreme provisions of that law could be brought into operation in the existing circumstances of the country, without producing a high degree of apprehension and alarm. Why, then, if this were granted, he had every thing that was necessary to support his view of the subject; and it was clearly the duty of government to oppose the prejudices of those who objected to the proposed measure, although it was not necessary to combat

their arguments, for no arguments had been adduced. If there was a necessity for any measure, that measure must be either the alteration or the suspension of the law. Some members had spoken for an alteration. He thought otherwise. The very existence of any reason for preventing the law from now coming into full operation, was a reason, as it seemed to him, why it would now be inconvenient to make any alteration in the law; and that inconvenience would be principally felt by the landed interest. He protested, that whatever might be the construction put on this measure by the landed interest, if he were called on to describe it, he should say it was a bill for the protection of the landed interest.

The House then divided. For bringing up the report, 185—Against it, 58—Majority, 127.

On the question that the resolutions be read a second time,

Mr Baring observed, that it would be better, under all the circumstances, to go at once to a committee, where the whole subject might be considered in all its bearings. In order to afford an opportunity for reconsidering the whole subject, he should move as an amendment, "That the resolutions be recommended."

Lord Milton seconded the amendment.

The House divided, when there appeared—For the amendment, 51—Against it, 167—Majority in favour of the resolutions, 116.

The report was then agreed to, and two bills (the Warehoused Corn Bill, and the Importation of Corn Bill) founded thereon, were then read a first time.

In the House of Lords, on May 11, the Earl of Malmesbury, in rising to introduce a resolution against any alteration in the Corn Laws at the present moment, assured their lordships

that he felt great pain and embarrassment in addressing them. It appeared from the votes of the House of Commons, that there were two measures connected with the subject of the Corn Laws before that House. The necessity of previously considering the subject before the bill came up from the other House, was obvious; because no alteration could be made in a bill of this kind, by that House, without causing the measure to fall entirely to the ground. Their lordships might recollect, that in March 1825, a right honourable gentleman (Mr Huskisson) declared, that although he thought a revision of the Corn Laws necessary, it was not intended to agitate the subject that session: it was understood to be postponed to the present session; but, notwithstanding, two minor questions were brought forward at the close of last session, both of them bearing on the Corn Laws, and both of them involving a violation of the principle of those laws. In the beginning of the present session the noble earl again postponed the consideration of the question of the Corn Laws, on account of the great commercial distress, and the measures which it was thought necessary to adopt with regard to the currency. About ten days ago, when the distresses which prevailed in the manufacturing districts assumed a more alarming character, a noble marquis (Lansdowne) suggested a vote of money to be applied towards the relief of the distressed. The noble earl (Liverpool) stated that government had no intention of granting money. They relied, he said, on private charity and the poor-rates. Now, of the poor-rates, it was not stating the proportion too high when he said, that the landed interest already paid at least 7-10ths. In addition to this, government proposed the two measures which were now before the other House. Of these, he certainly saw objections to the first measure: but he would not occu-

py their lordships' time in stating them, as he did not mean to oppose it. But if their lordships would have the goodness to indulge him so far, he would state how much foreign corn had—in violation, as die contended, of the existing Corn Laws—been introduced into the home market since the 21st of last June. Of bonded corn there were 433,000 quarters; of Canadian corn, 95,000 quarters; and, by the first of these measures, there would be, further, 300,000 quarters; altogether making 828,000 quarters in eleven months. Then, if to that were to be added the 500,000 quarters to be introduced by the second measure, they would have a quantity of 1,328,000 quarters of foreign corn introduced into the home market within one year. Now, the annual average importations had been about 450,000 quarters, including years of war as well as peace; so that this year they would have admitted a quantity greater than the average amount of two former years.—Looking at the question, with a view to the probability of a scarcity, he would first consider the average prices of past years, and then the average price of this year. In November, 1815, the price was 56s.; in May, 1816, it was 75s.; in November, 1816, it was 98s.; and in May, 1817, it was 105s. In this year the quarterly averages ran thus:—In May, 1825, it was 60s., which was 45s. less than in 1817. On the 14th of November, two months after the harvest, in 1825, it was 64s. 5d.; in the following February, which was five months after the harvest, it was 60s. 5d., which was less by 5s. than it had been in two months after the harvest; and in May, which was eight months after the harvest, the price was 60s. 4d.; so that it was now full 5s. less than it had been two months after the harvest. There was, therefore, no great probability of high prices this year. Now, it was said that the stock in hand was defi-

cient; but that he begged leave to deny. With respect to the noble earl's measures, he (Lord Malmesbury) must first beg leave to ask one thing—what was the cause of the distress? The master-manufacturer said it was the combinations of the workmen. The workman said it was the machinery. Old-fashioned people like himself (Lord Malmesbury) said it was the free-trade principles. Whatever it was, he believed in his conscience that the Corn Laws had nothing to do with it; and that being the case, their lordships should prove it to the world. When the cry against the Corn Laws was, he would not say encouraged, but countenanced, by the measures proposed by government, he thought it incumbent on the House to adopt some steps to disabuse the public mind on the subject. Another reason why he was anxious for inquiry arose from rather a singular circumstance—namely, an expression which dropped from the noble earl in introducing these measures—the words, “famine price.” Now, how could that price, which, in 1822, was fixed by ministers, in four short years become a famine price? He must do the noble earl the justice to say, that when he used the expression, he added, that what might not be a famine price one year, might, owing to a change of circumstances, become a famine price the next; but the proposed duty of 12s. was liable to the same observations; for this also might in time become a famine duty. If the words famine price applied to corn, so did they apply to other articles of life, which were equally dear. Hats, coats, shoes, might be said to cost a famine price; as the noble lord might see, if he had time to look into his tailor's or his shoemaker's accounts. The same observation applied to education, and to tea, which had now almost generally become a necessary, and which was as high as it was in 1822. If, therefore,

one thing was at a famine price, so was every other. Having mentioned education, he would observe that he was partial to the education of the lower ranks; he always rejoiced at what was called the march of intellect, because it enabled the people to overcome prejudice. He would now only refer to one point—namely, Ireland, which afforded one of the greatest resources to this country against scarcity. The average quantity of corn which had been imported from Ireland, according to the statement of Mr Tooke's book, during the first three years after 1806, when the importation duty was taken off Irish corn, was 63,000 quarters; and in the last three years down to 1822, beyond which the tables did not extend, it averaged 484,000 quarters; equalling in amount the former importation of foreign corn. But their lordships had a document lately laid before the House, which put this in a stronger point of view. From that it appeared, that the quantity of meal, flour, and grain, imported from Ireland in 1815, was 1,600,000 barrels; in 1825, it increased to 3,700,000: so that the greatest dependence might be placed on the supplies of that country.—If the power of importing these 500,000 quarters of corn could be intrusted to any hands, it might be to those of the noble earl. But it was too great a trust for any hands. What would be the effect of this measure upon the market for the next eight months? No man would buy wheat for what he might purchase it for to-day, if he expected that 500,000 additional quarters would be brought into the market to-morrow. Suppose 200,000 pairs of shoes were imported here from France, and placed in the hands of the noble earl, to be brought into the market when he thought fit, it would immediately produce an insurrection amongst the shoemakers of the metropolis. The noble earl might say to them, that

200,000 pairs of shoes bore no proportion to the quantity required for this great metropolis ; to which they would instantly reply, No ; but so long as the public expected this additional supply to be thrown into the market, they would not buy any shoes from them ; and thus the uncertainty which the anticipation of that supply produced destroyed their sale. The noble lord concluded by moving a resolution to the following effect:—"That this House, although most anxious to contribute to the relief of the suffering classes of the community, is of opinion that it would not be expedient to make any alteration in the existing system of the Corn Laws, with regard to the importation of foreign corn, without instituting a previous inquiry as to the necessity of such alteration, and the effects which it might produce upon the interests of the grower and consumer of British produce."

Earl Bathurst.—His noble friend wished the House to make a declaration of their sentiments, even before the proposed measures were brought under their consideration. But certainly the resolution proposed by his noble friend would not declare their sentiments : it was a resolution on which no two individuals would be agreed as to its meaning. What did the noble earl mean by "the present system of the Corn Laws?" In 1815, the law, until wheat reached 80s., prohibited the importation of corn ; at 80s. it was admitted free of duty. In 1822, it was determined that foreign corn should be admitted when the market price was 70s. ; but then it was to be subject to a duty of 17s. for the first three months, and of 12s. afterwards, until it was at 80s., when a proportionate reduction was to be allowed, and it was then to pay a graduated duty. In addition to this, there was a provision that this law was not to come into operation until the market price arrived at 80s. ;

the effect of which was to suspend the law until corn should rise to 80s. a quarter. Now, then, what was the existing system of the Corn Laws ? He (Earl Bathurst) said that foreign corn was to be admitted when the market price arrived at 70s. Now, if that were so, according to his noble friend's proposition, that part of the law ought to be repealed ; but, on the other hand, those who would say that 80s. ought to be the protecting price, were pledged against this alteration, unless they first went into inquiry. His noble friend wished the House to declare against any alteration in the Corn Laws ; yet he was willing to allow the admission of bonded corn. This was a complete infraction of the laws ; but, though he admitted this, he was unwilling to go a step farther, and admit foreign corn under any exigency. He (Lord Bathurst) would ask, had noble lords reflected what might be the state of the country in such a case ? The noble earl said that the farm-yards were full of corn, if the granaries were not. He did not know from what authority the noble earl drew his statement, but he (Earl Bathurst) knew that last year there had been a very early harvest, and there was the prospect of a very late one this year. Let their lordships, therefore, give ministers some discretionary power to provide against an emergency. He should now move "That the house do adjourn."

The Marquis of Salisbury was willing to place a proper degree of confidence in ministers, and he would have readily done so in the present instance, but that there was something in the manner adopted, and the time chosen, for bringing forward these two important measures, that rendered them extremely exceptionable. From an opinion often expressed by a right hon. gentleman (Mr Huskisson) that the Corn Laws should be revised, with a view to their being ameliorated, if not

totally repealed, it was generally thought that it was the intention of government to abolish the Corn Laws altogether. Added to this, a belief had gone abroad, that the Corn Laws had been so long kept up, in order to support the landed interest. This was an unfounded calumny on the land-owners. Whatever might be the theoretical objections to the Corn Laws, they had had the practical merit of securing low prices, and thereby contributed most materially to the interests and well-being of that very class of persons who were led to view them as an evil.

The Earl of Limerick, considering as he did that the present measures were likely to be injurious to the country, was obliged to withhold his concurrence. It was argued against inquiring into the cause of the distress, that it would occupy too much time. Why, this was but the beginning of May, and their lordships' time could not be better occupied than by endeavouring to prevent a famine. Could there be any apprehension of a famine price while the average was 58s. 6d. with a falling market, and the certainty of 300,000 quarters being brought into consumption? There was a very great stock of corn in Ireland; and if ministers persisted in their measures, that corn would go to a bad market, and the consequences would be ruinous to the landed interest of that country.

The Earl of Rosebery.—If the proposition of ministers had been confined to the letting out the bonded corn, they should have had his support; not with a view to relief, because he should have been aware that the measure could not have alleviated the distress; but in order to show the distressed manufacturers that Parliament was willing to do all in its power to assist them. With regard to the introducing 500,000 quarters of corn, at the discretion of government, he thought it a measure pregnant with evil; and he thought

that there was as much mischief in asking for, as in exercising, that power.

The Earl of Aberdeen.—Notwithstanding all the sneers and jests which he had heard directed against the landed interest, both in and out of that House, he was still of opinion that on that interest was founded the constitutional government of the country; but he thought that no friend of the landholders who impartially considered the subject could think that these measures would injuriously affect their interests. It was rather singular, too, that those noble lords who were loudest in condemning ministers for agitating the subject at all, were the first to propose a full inquiry into the whole system of the Corn Laws. Some noble lords were disposed to consent to the admission of bonded corn, but objected to the discretionary power. There, again, was an inconsistency; they consented to the direct interference with the Corn Laws, and objected to that which was only contingent; for it was possible that the power which ministers demanded, might never be called into exercise. It would be wise on the part of the landholders not to put forth a strong opposition to these measures. They were bound to make some sacrifice, if it were only to the prejudices of that large class who were looking forward with anxiety to the decision of this question.

Lord Ellenborough observed, that the resolution had been complained of as ambiguous. To him the motion appeared to be one of the simplest that had ever been submitted to the House. Ministers had stated that there was great reason to apprehend a famine. He was astonished that persons having experience, should set up a cry of famine, which was just as dangerous as the cry of fire in a crowded theatre. If he looked at the average prices for the last two years, or at the increasing produce of Ireland, he saw no ground

for apprehending an unusual scarcity. He begged their lordships to recollect that what was innovation one year became precedent next year, and rule the next. If the present measure should be agreed to, the result would be, that we must always admit bonded corn. He thought the landed interest deserved every encouragement consistent with the general interest of the country. He objected to an extensive foreign trade in corn—he desired never to see our granaries placed in the hands of those who were jealous of our national greatness.

Earl Grosvenor was of opinion that the proposed limitation as to quantity was objectionable, because if a scarcity arose, or any necessity for the exertion of the power, the limitation would destroy the benefit expected from the measure. As to ministers, so far from deserving confidence, their conduct would afford abundant reason for withdrawing it.

The Earl of Darnley regretted the manner in which this subject had been brought forward; but much as he reprobated the principle of the measure, yet with the possibility of corn reaching a famine price, and the chance of a starving population, he could not bring his mind to reject the proposition of ministers.

Lord King did not wish to detract from the merit of the noble lords opposite; he believed the members of his Majesty's cabinet were possessed of great experience, and understood pretty well the nature and constitution of noble lords. The noble earl (Malmesbury) wished for an inquiry: but an inquiry would last for a year. The House knew enough of inquiries from one which had taken place elsewhere. And who were the persons who stood up for inquiry?—the friends of the Corn Laws. He thought that after the changes which had taken place during eleven years—after the experience we

had gained in that space of time—after the alteration in the currency, and other material changes, it was mere drivelling to say that the Corn Laws required no change. The freedom of the corn trade was necessary to the prosperity of our manufactures. Every quarter of corn imported from abroad purchased British manufactures of equal value. Unless foreign corn was admitted into this country, our own commodities could not be purchased by foreigners. No steady system of prices could be hoped for until the scheme of our Corn Laws was altered, and our prices of grain assimilated more nearly to those of the continent.

The Earl of Caernarvon considered the whole policy of ministers upon the present question to have been vacillating and unintelligible. For the "possibility" of failing crops, to which they adverted, when was it that such "possibility" would not be capable of being made an argument? The true secret of the change in ministers' opinions—and they might as well speak openly and say so—was the partial tumults which had taken place in the country. It was said by some that if this measure would not relieve the manufacturers, it would conciliate them. He desired to purchase no such popularity. If the measure now proposed was carried, the effect would be to throw the whole country into confusion.

Lord Dudley and Ward said, that if he were governed by the dislike which he felt to the Corn Laws, he should certainly oppose the measure brought forward by ministers; because he was sure that it was only by the aid of occasional alterations that those laws could possibly continue. It would be well for noble lords, however, to consider in what condition government would be left by a refusal of the power which it now demanded. It would be a very different state of things, the not having provided such a power, and the

having asked for it and been refused. Suppose the most serious scarcity, and consequent distress, to arise? He hoped, that should such pressure arise, ministers would spurn all barriers, and do, at all hazards, that which seemed to them to be for the advantage of the country.

The Earl of Liverpool.—He had, early in the present session, stated with perfect good faith, that he thought the present period unfit to go into the question of the Corn Laws: that opinion he still entertained; and it was chiefly on that account that he objected to the present motion, because, if it should be carried, it would be absolutely necessary to go into the question. Noble lords asked, where was the necessity for these propositions? The necessity was to be found in the condition of the country; the time, the circumstances, the aspect of the harvest. He must admit that the distress in the manufacturing districts had increased until it had arrived at an almost unprecedented height, and assumed so serious an appearance, that it became at last imperatively incumbent on the government to see if some specific remedy could not be devised for its alleviation. Now he by no means thought the high price of corn was the origin of the present distress. But at the same time it would be absurd to say that the high price of provisions was no addition to the evil. Every one who had examined this matter must have ascertained that this country grew scarcely sufficient corn for its own consumption. We were not without sad experience on this subject. If the accounts of the various harvests for a period of 32 years, commencing in 1791, and ending in 1822, were examined, it would be found that there had been eleven defective harvests. There was no trusting to first appearances or fair prospects in this matter. He himself recollected an instance. In June 1816, there was every prospect

of a most abundant harvest, when one single day entirely destroyed this prospect, and caused an excessive scarcity; so that the price of corn rose from 53s. to 100s. and 110s. per quarter. If such a calamity were to occur, in the existing state of the country, what terrible consequences might be apprehended! But, it would be said, this evil might not happen; and why should this power be required now more than in any other year? He would make no scruple in saying that he did consider it a defect, and a very great one, in the present system, that it should require such a power to be lodged anywhere at any time, in order to correct the evils which might otherwise arise from it; but he conceived this power was peculiarly called for at present under the existing circumstances.—It had been urged against this measure, that people wanted work, not bread; yes, they did want work, but they wanted wages too. Did noble lords recollect that those who in other times earned eighteen or twenty shillings a-week, could now scarcely obtain, with the most indefatigable exertion, six or seven shillings? When he asked for a power which it was unusual for that House to give, as it was irksome for the government to receive, he was asked, if we grant you this power, what security have we that you will not wantonly use it to the injury of the landed proprietors? The question was not to be tried by the confidence which they would repose in one administration or another; for they must repose, under such circumstances, the same confidence in what they might consider the very best as well as the very worst of administrations. They were not, he repeated, to try the question of confidence by the character of the ministry, but by what they considered to be most conducive to the interests of the country. A noble lord (Ellenborough) had insinuated a suspicion that these were

not his (Lord Liverpool's) measures. Now, he begged to say, most distinctly, that if any man was more culpable than another, with regard to bringing forward these propositions, he was that man; and he was ready to claim his full share of all the odium which might attach to them. Before he concluded, he wished to answer an observation of a noble earl, who had accused ministers of bargaining away the trade of the country, for the purpose of carrying into execution some visionary and theoretical views upon the subject of trade. Now, in the negotiations with the different powers who had felt it their interest to accept the benefits of a system of reciprocity, and among others with Prussia, the country most feared by the agricultural interests, there undoubtedly had been, very naturally, a wish to enter into a bargain for the admission of corn; but so far from ministers sanctioning any such proposal, he would read to their lordships an extract from an answer of government to that proposition. The extract was this—"The tendency of the proposition now submitted to the undersigned is of such a nature, that he feels convinced the government of his Britannic Majesty never could entertain it for a moment. Any proposal for altering the Corn Laws of the country—laws so closely connected with the welfare of all the other branches of our commerce and manufactures, must be decided by circumstances arising within the British dominions, under authority and with the consent of those immediately interested in them."

The Marquis of Lansdowne said, that either the noble earl intended by these regulations to effect an indirect, though nominally a temporary, alteration in the Corn Laws; or there existed apprehensions in the mind of the noble earl, the grounds of which he had not stated fully to the House. He thought, however, that it would be much better that

ministers should act on their own responsibility, in case the anticipated emergency should occur, than that they should call on the House to legislate on this subject in the dark, without being made acquainted with the circumstances which rendered it necessary. There might be a system bad in itself, but he could tell them one which was much worse, and that was an unsettled system—varying with accidental circumstances, adopting the views of one party to-day, and of another to-morrow—altering all ideas of expenditure and outlay of capital, and unlinging and overturning all the plans and speculations of private life and public commerce. When the noble earl attempted to point out to them the consequences of a famine in the country, and the necessity of guarding against such a frightful evil, did he think that they had lived, or were about to live, without a government in the country? He would say that no man deserved to be intrusted with power, who would not, on the slightest appearance of the approach of a famine, be prepared to avert its consequences, by taking all the responsibility of the most energetic measures. The transactions of the year 1766 had been misstated in a most extraordinary manner. What was the blame really imputed to Lord Chatham and Lord Camden at that time? It was not that they had no claim to indemnity, but that they claimed a dispensing power, and refused to acknowledge that they had exceeded the just bounds of their authority. The great men of that day thought that recourse ought to have been had to the constitutional advice of Parliament; the answer was then that there was not time, but how little could it apply now? Then Parliament could not be called together in less than 40 days, and now, by the alteration of the law, it could be brought together even in 14 days. The noble earl had talked of the possibility of a rise to 120s. and

even to 130s.; but could it be imagined that such an alteration could take place in prices before Parliament might be brought together? or would it not be more reconcilable to policy and to precedent, to leave the government to provide for such an emergency in the ordinary method, than to determine to take a course upon an uncertain contingency, which operated most prejudicially upon the whole of the agricultural interests?

The House then divided, when the numbers were—For the motion, Contents, (proxies 18) 67—Non-contents, (proxies 70) 166—Majority against the motion, 99.

The same day, in the House of Commons, on the question that the Importation of Corn Bill be read a second time,

Sir T. Lethbridge said, that he must continue to oppose the bill.

Sir W. Wynn said, that considering this merely as a temporary measure, he would vote for the second reading; but he would reserve himself as to the details of the measure, until the bill should be in the committee.

Colonel Wood, thinking that the general question would lose much in the opinion of the country by frequent divisions on this bill, would vote for the second reading. He would, however, propose in the committee, that foreign corn should be imported, with a duty of 65s.

Mr Banks said, that notwithstanding the alterations that had been made in the measure, he still thought it extremely objectionable. This was no fit moment for the agitation of the Corn Laws. What, he would ask, had occurred since the 18th of April, when the House decided not to agitate that question?

“*Probitas laudatur, et alget,*”

was an observation of some antiquity, and had been verified in the present

instance. Whilst the people were quiet, no aid had been administered to their distress; but as soon as they grew riotous, measures were devised for their relief. He should therefore move that the bill be read a second time “this day month.”

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that the honourable member had talked of these measures having been adopted by ministers through fear. He had admired the patience with which the distressed manufacturers had endured their sufferings; and when it was found that they had been driven to commit some outrages from the excess of those sufferings—for it was excess of suffering, and not political disaffection, which had led them astray—it would have been the extremity of fear on the part of the government if it had abstained from proposing any plan of relief for those sufferings, merely because some individuals had been driven by their distress from that forbearance which it was the duty of all men to show to the property of others.

Lord Clifton hoped this measure would be merely temporary, but confessed that he felt himself bound, in the choice of evils which were before him, to vote with ministers.

Mr Bennett declared the cause of the existing distress to be the recent tampering with the currency, and not the Corn Laws. The relief which this measure professed to give to the manufacturers would be quite inefficient, if it were not attended by a paper currency.

Lord Milton observed, that they who supposed that this measure could get through the House without bringing on a discussion of the Corn Laws, would find themselves mistaken. With respect to the measure before the House, he did not think that it would be of any effect; neither did he suppose that ministers thought that it would be of any effect, except in preventing an aggravation of the existing distress. In whatever

view this question was taken, it resolved itself at last into the amount of the burdens which the different classes of the community bore. Now he maintained that the landed gentlemen formed that class of the community which had the least cause to complain of these burdens. (Cries of No.) He said "yes;" for who were the chief cause, who the great instigators, who the main supporters of the late war, which had imposed such a weight of taxation on the nation, but the country gentlemen? He should not be put down by cries of "no, no." He said "aye, aye," and he defied honourable members to prove that he was incorrect. The country gentlemen were the cause, the instigators, and the promoters of the late war. He did not say that in so doing they had acted wrongly—he knew that members of his own family had supported it as strongly as any persons; but he repeated that it was the country gentlemen, who had pledged themselves to expend life and fortune in support of that war. What was the case now? When the fortune became really affected—he said nothing of the life—by the diminution of two shillings or even one shilling in the rent of the land, they declared that they had already paid for the war in the shape of direct taxes, and ought not to suffer any further diminution of their income. Now he could show that the Corn Laws, which were the creature of the war, added 10s. to the price of every quarter of wheat grown in this country; and as the consumption of the country amounted to 14,000,000 or 15,000,000 annually, they inflicted an annual tax of 7,000,000*l.* on the people of England, for the benefit of the landowners alone. Let the landowners controvert that position if they could; and when they could, then, but not till then, they might say, that they had expended their fortunes in support of the war. The plain fact was, and it was impossible to disguise it, that they had raised their for-

tunes, instead of having spent them in the war, and they now endeavoured by the operation of the Corn Laws to keep up the high rents which they had contrived to get during that period.

Mr Peel regretted that the noble lord had made a speech, which, with whatever good-humour it might have been delivered, was calculated to interrupt the temperate course in which the debate had hitherto proceeded. The noble lord had said that the country gentlemen were opposed to the reduction of rents; as if they were at this moment in possession of high rents: whereas it was a notorious fact, that rents at this moment were not high, and that it was not more than three years since the agricultural interest was involved in the severest distress. During the whole of the time since, corn had never borne an exorbitant price, and the landlords were now only beginning to recover from the great depression under which they suffered in 1821.

Mr H. Sumner contended, in opposition to the noble lord, (Milton,) that there was not a single member in that house whose rents were not at this moment 30 per cent lower than they were during the war. There were no gentlemen who had a more national character than the landlords, or who more deeply sympathized with the distressed of the community.

Mr Wharton felt bound, as a country gentleman, to observe, that he had opposed the late war from the outset—that he had supported every motion for terminating it, and that, whatever the consequences of that war might be, he held himself innocent of them.

The House then divided.—For the second reading, 189—Against it, 65—Majority in favour of the second reading, 124.

On May 12, the House having resolved itself into a committee on the Importation of Corn Bill, some unim-

portant discussion took place, after which the order of the day was read, that the House resolve itself into a committee on the Warehoused Corn Bill.

On the question that the Speaker do leave the chair,

Mr Bennett moved that the House resolve itself into a committee, on the 3d Geo. IV. c. 60, for the purpose of raising the duty from 12s. to 17s. per quarter on warehoused corn. He contended that the difference between the two rates of duty, which would amount to 75,000*l.*, would all go into the pockets of gambling speculators, if some such measure were not adopted.

Mr Portman seconded the motion, which, after some remarks by Mr Huskisson and others, was negatived, and the House went into a committee.

Mr Stanley proposed an amendment.—“That on a certificate by three members of a local committee, stating that bonded corn, with a specification of the quantity, had been distributed for the relief of persons in the distressed districts, the lords of the treasury be empowered to remit the whole of the duty thereon; the duty to be applied to the relief of those districts, where it might be wanted.”

Mr Stanley afterwards withdrew his clause.

The report was ordered to be brought up on the 17th.

On that day, upon the order of the day for bringing up the report on the Importation of Corn Bill being read,

Sir T. Lethbridge said, he did not rise for the purpose of offering any further opposition to the measure, which would be both useless and vexatious. But he took this opportunity of calling for a pledge from government, that nothing which had been done respecting this measure, should be considered as pledging either this or the other House towards supporting any proposition respecting the Corn

Laws; a question, he understood, which was to be fully adjusted in the next session of parliament. He did this in spite of all the intimidations he had received from quarters which he despised from the very bottom of his heart, and which intimidations he knew had been sent to him in order to stop the honest expression of his opinions, which he had presumed to utter in the full discharge of the duty which he owed the country at large. No degree of intimidation, however gross, personal, or dangerous it might be, could ever deter him from the discharge of his conscientious duty.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, he could have no sort of hesitation in declaring, that it would be the shabbiest conduct which any government had ever pursued, if they departed one single iota from the pledge, which he would now repeat, that nothing which had taken place ought or could be taken to prejudge the decision of the House as to the main question of the Corn Laws.

The report was then brought up, and the bill was ordered to be read a third time to-morrow, (when it passed).

The order of the day was then moved for bringing up the Warehoused Corn Bill.

Sir R. Heron observed, it was extraordinary that the country should be deprived of the bonus which was to go into the pockets of the holders of bonded corn, and which ought to be applied to the distresses of the people. It could not escape observation, that the greater portion of this benefit was to go to the people of Liverpool.

Mr Huskisson said, that if he were to act according to the spirit evinced by the honourable baronet, he should say that his two speeches would almost justify a suspicion that he was about to stand for some great agricultural county. With respect to the

statement of the honourable baronet, he could only say, there was a larger portion of this corn in the port of London than in Liverpool; and all the property of the honourable baronet would not cover the losses which these parties would suffer, even with the duty of 12s.

After a few words from Mr J. Bennett, the report was received, the resolutions agreed to, and the bill ordered to be read a third time to-morrow, (when it passed).

In the House of Lords, on May 23, the Earl of Liverpool rose to move the second reading of the Importation of Corn and Warehoused Corn bill, which he prefaced by a few observations.

The Earl of Malmesbury said, that his objections to the second bill remained wholly unshaken.

The Lord Chancellor said, that he should think that the ministry were committing one of the greatest possible offences against the state if they were to propose measures calculated to injure the landed interest; for he was most fully persuaded that every other interest in the country was so interwoven with this, that all classes of the community would be sufferers by any neglect on the part of the government to protect the agriculturists with the most fostering care; but he did not see that the present measures were likely in any way materially to affect the landed interest. With respect to the measure for letting out the bonded corn, he could see no objection to it; indeed, if corn were to advance to a certain price, the bonded corn would be brought out under the existing law. On the other bill more might be said. No one could be more averse than he was to the exercise of acts of power against the law, but under certain circumstances, the exercise of such a power might be rendered necessary; where ministers, however,

could foresee that such circumstances were likely to occur, generally speaking, it would be their duty to provide against the emergency, by applying to parliament for the power of meeting them, when they should occur. But this rule must be received with some qualification, for if the applying for this power, which he would term an indemnity in advance, were likely to be more mischievous than the acting without it, no doubt it would be the duty of government to pursue the latter course, and come to parliament for an indemnity afterwards—for a tyranny in this country, whether for forty days (as Lord Camden had called the exercise of the prerogative in 1766) or one minute, could never be endured.

Lord Grey said, that the learned lord had styled this an indemnity in advance. But where was the necessity in the present case?—when did it arise? On the 18th of April last, although ministers then stated that the country was in a state of great distress, they also expressly declared that any proposition which would materially tend to diminish the price of corn, would considerably aggravate the distress. Now when government declared that they saw no means of alleviating the distress but by adopting measures for the reduction of the price of corn, what was this but holding forth an idea, that the Corn Laws were the cause of the calamities? Could it be possible, after this, that a cool and unprejudiced consideration of that great question could be entered upon? The landlords were held up, by these measures, as selfish and oppressive persons, who prevented the poor from having that relief which the repeal of the Corn Laws alone could give. He (Lord Grey) had no wish to make professions, respecting his sense of public duty; but for his own part he disclaimed any sordid or ungenerous sentiments in defending himself and his interests

from those who attacked them. He would appeal to his whole life whether he had suffered views of personal interest to bias him? But he would not deny that he felt a natural anxiety to preserve that property to his family which had been handed down to him from a long line of ancestors. Whatever might be the odium attached to opposing the present measure, he was prepared to encounter it. If he thought it likely to produce even any temporary relief, he would assent to it; but he was convinced the measure was illusory as regarded the present, and would be mischievous with reference to the future. Even in the course of the recent discussions, the justification of the measure had shifted its ground most peculiarly. First, parliament had been told of probable evils,—of cold winds, bleak nights, and the strong prospect of a late harvest in the present year: now the excuse dwindled down to an allegation of merely possible dangers, dangers which were no more likely to befall us in this year than in the next, or in any of the 20 years next to come. He gathered from the best authorities, that there was not only every prospect of a full, but of an early harvest. With respect to the stock of corn on hand, his information was directly in the teeth of the statements which had been made by ministers. With such facts before him, he was bound to say that ministers had made out no case; and the mischief which the proposed measure would do was enormous. Ministers had been latterly engaged in making many alterations in our commercial system, in order to increase our means of prosperity. He confessed, that as far as his judgment went, the more he saw of the new principles, the less he liked them. He would not attempt to dispute the pretensions of the teachers of political economy; because, in all humility, it became him to acknow-

ledge that their doctrines were in many instances quite above his comprehension. Their theories indeed were so perfect, that no sufficient objection could be stated to them in argument; but it generally happened that some little circumstance or other occurred in practice which overturned all theoretical calculation, and ended by producing some great national calamity. He was not averse to a revision of the Corn Laws, though he distinctly denied that the laws, as they stood, had done anything to prejudice the country;—but he opposed, beyond any course, that uncertainty which the present measure would introduce—that constant liability to change, which would leave every man in doubt and anxiety as to his daily transactions.

The Earl of Harrowby observed, that it had been asked when it was that the new lights upon which they were acting had broken upon ministers? That was a question which, from the nature of it, it was impossible to answer. There were circumstances in the present state of the country which induced ministers not to stand in the way of allowing the supply of bonded corn, but it did not therefore follow that at all times foreign corn should be admitted when the price was 60s. For the same reason, they had acquiesced in allowing corn, to a certain extent, to be imported at a duty of 17s. They allowed this at the present moment; but they were not prejudging the price, prospectively, at which corn might hereafter be admitted.

The Earl of Lauderdale.—Before he proceeded to investigate the subject, he requested that the two first paragraphs of his majesty's speech on the 3d of Feb. 1825, should be read.

[The paragraphs were read as follows:—]

“We are commanded by his Majesty to express to you the gratification

which his Majesty derives from the continuance and progressive increase of that public prosperity upon which his Majesty congratulated you at the opening of the last session of parliament.

"There never was a period in the history of this country when all the great interests of the nation were at the same time in so thriving a condition, or when a feeling of content and satisfaction was more widely diffused through all classes of the British people."

Here there was a most flattering picture of the prosperity of the country; and yet wheat was actually 6s. 4d. a-quarter dearer then than it was now, when the measure before the House was proposed. Now, he must distinctly object—not, perhaps, to the first measure—which came with a good grace—and he never did object to any measure that seemed likely, however remotely, to benefit the people; but he did object to the two measures combined; and farther, he must object to the language used by the noble earl (Liverpool) in giving up the principle on which the Corn Laws of this country stood. The noble earl declared that this was a measure of relief. Surely it was not a measure of relief for the manufacturers; because, when they had no money, they could not purchase corn. No: it became a measure of relief, it appeared, for the charitable subscribers, because it would make their money go a little farther. What was the price of wheat in November last? It was 10s. per quarter dearer than now. At that time, too, ten months must intervene before the harvest could be brought to market; whereas, at the present moment, the harvest was but three months distant. Those, it should be recollected, were summer months, when it was more easy to subsist than during the winter and spring. At this time last year

wheat was 8s. dearer than it was when the noble earl proposed this bill; but in neither instance did he think it necessary to ask Parliament to pass such measures as these. In his opinion, whatever might be said to the contrary, the line of policy adopted by ministers would have the effect of setting the manufacturers against the agricultural interest, and would prevent, for years to come, a temperate discussion of that great subject. What possible reason could the noble earl advance, to show that the present was not as fit a moment for inquiry as any other? The noble earl, it seemed, had found out that Great Britain could not rely on its own agricultural industry for corn. Now he must declare, that this was one of the most dangerous doctrines that could be laid down. All the evidence went to prove that Great Britain and Ireland could, on all ordinary occasions, grow sufficient corn for their own people. The most mischievous principle that could be adopted by this country was, to rely on foreigners for a supply of grain. If it were true, that when the crop was small in one part of Europe, it was sure to be great in another, then there would be some certainty about the matter. But the fact was not so. If they looked to the corn-trade throughout Europe, they would find that, when there was a bad season here, there was also a bad season on the continent, especially in the north of Europe, whence the great supply was to come. Therefore they would be inundated with corn in a year of plenty, but in a year of scarcity they would not be able to procure the requisite supply. The law of nature was opposed to such a system; but, independent of that, it would be affected by municipal laws. If they examined the law of France, the law of Sweden, and the law of other countries, on this subject, they would find that provision was made to prevent

corn from being exported when it was at a certain price. It was not the cause of the landholders, but of the consumers, that he now advocated. It would be found in the history of this country, that by an efficacious law, passed in 1670, in the reign of Charles II., before foreign corn could be admitted, the price in the market here must have risen to 50*s.*, which, with a duty of 11*s.*, brought the importing price to 3*l.* 1*s.* Looking to the value of money at that day, that sum was equal to 8*l.* 4*s.* at the present time. During the first thirty years after the passing of that act, they had wheat at 1*l.* 19*s.* per quarter. That system was continued down to 1765; and during the last thirty years of that period wheat was at 1*l.* 14*s.*, showing, that during the whole of that period, a low, and indeed a declining price, under those restrictive regulations, was constantly maintained. It was also a curious circumstance that, during the whole of the period he had mentioned, the highest price was never more than two-thirds of that to which it rose when the system was changed to that of a free trade. At the period he had mentioned, a really free trade was allowed; and, at the end of eight years, the average price of grain was found to have been 2*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.* a-quarter, being 15*s.* 11*d.* higher than it had been for the long period under the formidable protection that had been granted in the time of Charles II. In 1774 another law was passed, fixing the importation price at 50*s.*; and again, in 1791, a law was enacted, admitting the importation of foreign grain at 2*l.* 8*s.* If they looked to the average of wheat, from the time when the act of Charles was given, up to the end of the year 1791, when the act of 1774 was repealed, they would find the general average to be 3*l.* 2*s.* a-quarter, and during a considerable portion of that

time this was actually an exporting country. In 1792, a new act was made, which continued till 1804, by which wheat was admitted to be imported when it had reached the price of 2*l.* 9*s.* at a duty of 2*s.* 6*d.* Under that protection wheat rose to 3*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* After 1804, another scale of protection was adopted. It was then thought proper to go back to the protection of Charles II., and the average was struck at 5*l.* 4*s.*; being considerably greater than that recently imposed. What was wanted was equality of price. The noble earl then proceeded to contend, that the landed interest were subjected to peculiar burdens to a great extent. The land tax, called 4*s.* in the pound, in fact, amounted to about 10 per cent on the value of the rent. The poor-rates and tithes taken together amounted to about 33 per cent on the value of the rent. This was not all; the landed interest were obliged to furnish the means of forming roads, bridges, &c. and to indemnify the owners of property for all losses occasioned by the riotous proceedings of distressed manufacturers.

The Earl of Liverpool would tell the noble lord it was well known that when the measures were first proposed in the other House, they were hailed universally as well by those who supported the agricultural interest as by those who supported the manufacturing interest. The noble earl was not correct in stating that previously to 1765 there were no great fluctuations in the price of grain. In the beginning of the last century (1706), wheat was 23*s.* per quarter; in 1708 it was 36*s.*; in 1709 it was 69*s.* Thirty years afterwards, in 1740, wheat was 48*s.*; in 1741 it was 41*s.*; in 1742 it was 28*s.*; and in 1743 it was only 22*s.* He did not state this as an argument for one system or the other, but merely to show that there had

always been great fluctuations in the price of corn. The Corn Laws, he repeated, were not the cause of the distress; but the distress being in existence, it must be of material advantage to lower the price of the principal article of food.

Lord King congratulated the noble earl (Liverpool) on the signal success which he had obtained over the great domestic enemy. Everybody must have observed the reluctant support which had been given to the measures in a particular quarter; indeed, it was more like opposition than support:

“ ——— ira leonum
Vincula recusantum.”

Many people in that House were inimical to free trade,—there were persons who were enemies to free air, and to free conscience—

“Ravening wolves, whose conscience is their maw.”

One interest would shut out corn, another wool, another butter. This was the essence of the celebrated *codex agrestis* of the members for Somerset and Suffolk. All their arguments proceeded upon a supposition that we were to be sellers only and not buyers; but how could we be sellers, unless we allowed other nations to buy? The noble earl (Lauderdale) said he would renounce paradox, and argue logically; and immediately after said that low prices would produce distress, which was as great a paradox as was ever uttered.

The Earl of Caernarvon complained of the difficulties in which ministers were likely to be placed by these bills. These measures had been introduced to their lordships by the noble earl, in a speech by no means complimentary nor constitutional—a speech that amounted almost to menacing their lordships with the public execration, should they refuse to pass these measures.

Lord Redesdale felt no disinclination to relieve the manufacturers; but a partial tax on the agriculturists, for their relief, was an unjust tax. Every buyer of corn—all engaged in trade and manufacture, were to be benefited at the expense of the grower of corn. He should, therefore, oppose the measure: for we were not to steal leather to make poor men's shoes.

The Earl of Darnley thought that it would have been much better that the measures never had been brought forward: but after they had been introduced, after the people had looked up to them as sources of relief, he could not bring his mind to vote against them.

The Earl of Malmesbury.—An observation had fallen from the noble earl (Liverpool) that these measures would have passed over with silence, unless for the opposition in that House. The opposition arose, on his (Lord Malmesbury's) part, from a wish to discharge his duty as a peer of the realm.

The Duke of Somerset opposed the measure, and was for inquiry into the Corn Laws generally.

The House divided on the second reading of the Warehoused Corn Bill. For the measure, 84; against it, 23—majority for the admission, 61.

They then divided on the Importation of Corn Bill. For the bill, 78; against it, 28—majority for the measure, 50.

On May 24, the order of the day being moved for committing the corn bills,

The House went into a committee after a few observations by the Marquis of Lansdowne. The report was agreed to, and ordered to be received to-morrow, (when the bills were passed).

From the general depression of manufactures, the silk trade was not exempted; and an universal outcry was raised by those engaged in it against the application which had been recently, and very partially, made to it of the freedom of trade principles. It was too much to assume, because distress in the silk trade existed, that the new law affecting it was the cause of that distress; when, in fact, all branches of trade suffered equal distress. It would have been much fairer to suppose, that since distress was general, the cause or causes of it must have been equally general. But considering the readiness with which the silk manufacturers had acquiesced in the new law, and the extraordinary impetus which confessedly the hopes they were inspired with of increased prosperity to be derived from the change, had communicated to the trade, the clamour raised by them was truly barefaced. The discussion of the question was distinguished by one very odious feature. The great opponents of the new law were Messrs Ellice, Baring, and J. Williams; the two former of whom had particularly distinguished themselves previously by their advocacy of those principles of free trade, to which the ancient monopoly in favour of the silk trade was diametrically opposed. It could not escape observation, that the present was the last possible session of the present Parliament, and that each of the three honourable gentlemen represented a town, the staple trade of which was that of silk. We do not say that these concurrent circumstances warped the judgments or influenced the conduct of the honourable gentlemen; but one of the arguments of Mr Ellice was so very extraordinary, that we cannot conceive how any man, not feeling as if he were pleading the cause of his clients, could, in the utmost eagerness of debate, have resorted to it. His argument

was, that the machinery in the silk manufacture of the continent, was much superior to that of our own. Taking into view the infinite superiority of all our other manufactures, in point of machinery, to those abroad; the unrivalled inventive genius of our mechanists, and dexterity of our workmen, what was this but saying in effect, that such had been the lethargic influence of monopoly upon the silk trade, that it—and it alone—had repressed both the spirit of enterprise, and the genius of invention, with respect to that particular trade; and that, in fact, while the monopoly lasted, the country had all along been paying a heavy premium for the supineness, indifference to improvement, and incapacity of those engaged in it?

In the House of Commons, on Feb. 23, after numerous petitions had been presented against the importation of foreign silks,

Mr Ellice rose to move that the petitions relating to this subject be referred to a select committee. In bringing forward this motion, he could state, in the outset, that he was not acting in opposition to those principles which ministers had introduced with respect to trade. In acting on the principles of free trade he did not think that ministers had begun at the right end. They should first have established the currency on a solid basis; they should have brought about a steady state of prices; they should have placed the labourer in a condition to compete with foreigners, by such an alteration of the taxes as would relieve the artisan, by throwing the weight of them on classes better able to bear it. Had they done this, they might have proceeded with less difficulty to the next step, an alteration in the Corn Laws. These points he wished to state, lest he should be accused of deserting his principles.—If the House examined the evidence laid before it, especially that taken

before a committee in another place, and which formed the chief ground of the measure, he (Mr Ellice) thought it would appear that the legislature had acted with less caution than it should have done. The petitioners, with a view of ascertaining the state of the trade abroad, had deputed experienced persons into other countries, whose reports had been laid before the right honourable gentleman; and he trusted they would induce the House and ministers to arrest the measure. There were several branches in this trade—there were the throwsters, the dyers, (who he thought had not been fairly dealt with,) the broad trade, and the narrow trade. He should first call the attention of the House to the case of the throwsters. From all that had been communicated to him upon the subject, it did not appear that the throwsters had any complaints to make with respect to machinery, nor did they expect any improvement to be made in their present machines. This branch of the trade had, however, made out a case, which entitled them to a protection from the competition of foreigners. The duty of 7s. 6d. in the pound was utterly inconsistent with a competition as to other branches of the trade. The throwsters had set forth, that, notwithstanding the state of their machinery, labour entered so much into the necessary expenses of carrying on their manufacture, that unless they were able to procure that labour, at a price approaching that at which foreigners procured it, it would be impossible for them to continue their trade at all. The next branch was the Broad Trade, or manufacture of Broad Silk. The statements made to him by the broad silk manufacturers, were, that the cost of labour in France was so low in proportion to that of England, that it made, upon an average, a disadvantage of from 45 to 50 per cent to England, upon the general branches of the trade. Under these circumstances,

it was evident that the proposed protection of 30 per cent would be perfectly nugatory. One object of the proposed alterations was, to encourage an export trade; but the China and East India silks could be brought into the European markets at half the price of the English silks; and all the markets of the world would be open to them. One very important branch of the Silk Trade was that of the dyers. During the time that the Silk Trade had been subject to these experiments, a great proportion of the former duties continued upon all the articles used in dying. He knew no reason why the duty was so heavy upon barilla, excepting, that a certain person of landed property in Scotland had contrived a duty upon foreign barilla, so that the barilla from his own country might enjoy a monopoly of the market. The principles of free trade must be applied generally. To talk of applying them partially was ridiculous. There was a duty of 4*l.* 10*s.* per cwt. on foreign soap, which operated nearly as a prohibition; and the excise duty on soap manufactured here was 28*s.* per cwt. The foreign manufacturer had not to encounter such duties as these; and therefore the introduction of his goods was peculiarly unfavourable to the British manufacturer. He would now call attention to the situation of the Narrow, or Riband Trade. He was almost afraid to quote the statements made to him on the subject; because they might be supposed to be a little exaggerated. It had, however, been stated to him, that in Switzerland, the same quantity of silk was manufactured for 63*s.*, which, if manufactured in England, would cost 77*s.* or nearly that sum. With respect to the state of the machinery used in this country in the riband trade, some very important information had been elicited in the last two years. In the city of Coventry there were 9700 looms, 7500

of which were the property of the operative weavers, who applied their manual labour as well as their machinery to the manufacture of ribands. Those looms were for the most part of the worst possible construction; and it would be scarcely believed, that the improved loom in France would in a given time produce five times as much riband as the common loom in England, with the same degree of manual labour. What he had stated was, however, only half the case. He could state, that, at present, there were not less than ten thousand looms in actual employ in Switzerland, for the manufacture of common riband alone, and three thousand of these could, if actively worked, supply England with common ribands. At St Etienne, and at Lyons, there were no less than twelve thousand looms for the manufacture of fine ribands, and it was calculated that, of these, three thousand were sufficient to supply all the markets of Europe. But there were other improvements in machines applicable to another article, which had been produced in this country. He alluded to the making of velvets and velveteens. With respect to this manufacture, he could state, that there now existed an improved machinery in Germany, by which one man could make 48 times as much as could be made in an equal time by an English machine. The silk manufacturers in Switzerland and in France had very large capitals embarked. He was informed, that in one little town in Switzerland more real capital was embarked in this branch of manufacture than was employed in it throughout the whole of this country. There was another subject which government had overlooked, and to which he wished to call the attention of the House. He alluded to the custom of granting patents to the importers of machinery, who were not the inventors of what they introduced. The import-

er had the exclusive patent-right, and although he was the mere carrier, and might be incapable of either using or improving the machine, no manufacturer could use it, and no machinist could improve upon it for fear of infringing the importer's patent. Although a knowledge of the improvements made in French machinery had recently been obtained, such was the alarm existing in England as to the present measures, that there had not been a single attempt made to put up one of the improved machines in this country. The honourable gentleman after indulging in a few other details, concluded by moving—"That a select committee be appointed, to inquire into and examine the statements contained in the various petitions from persons engaged in the silk manufacture; and to report their opinion and observations thereon to the House."

Mr J. Williams understood it to be always desirable that experiments in the way of trade should be made when countries were in a state of ease and tranquillity, and not in times of difficulty and danger like the present. As he was desirous, however, of occupying as little of the time of the House as was consistent with the importance of the subject, he should at once proceed to the situation of the silk interest, and to that which would be the effect of a perseverance in the contemplated measures. To begin, therefore, with the town of Macclesfield—that town, under our old and erroneous system, had increased, since 1780, from a population of 4000 persons to a population of 23,000. The number now in employ, and in scanty employ, and at low wages, was 8700; being 14,000 thrown out of work, only by the operation, as the silk manufacturers contended, of the new measures. Sixteen hundred families, in Macclesfield only, were supported, by voluntary contributions, upon potatoes

and oatmeal. In Manchester the state of things was scarcely less calamitous than at Macclesfield. Of 10,500 looms which had been at work there, in the broad silk trade, in the spring of the last year, the number left, last month, was only 4100, being a reduction of upwards of 6500. In the parish of Bethnal Green, no less than 1000 silk workers, of various kinds, were sustained by parish relief, and it was said that the numbers were daily increasing. The whole of those distresses had been attributed by the right honourable gentleman and others to the spirit of overtrading and over-speculation, which had seized upon the manufacturers, as well as almost all other classes of society. And how did the right honourable gentleman propose that the evil should be cured? By leaving all to the natural course of things. What the present petitioners asked was, that the minister would reconsider the measure he had proposed, and that he would delay its execution till a more convenient opportunity—till the hospitality he was ready to exercise towards foreigners was in some measure met by them—till that system of reciprocity, of which he had spoken so much and so triumphantly, had been established. When that was done, opposition would no longer be offered; but till that time, he (Mr Williams) should have the pain of appearing to oppose measures of liberality, with the principles of which he fully agreed. Had any foreign nations performed one single act—had they acknowledged one principle of reciprocity to justify the present measure, or the conduct of the right honourable gentleman who was now urging this measure, to support his own principles, and to show that we understood political economy better than our ancestors?—He had now only to advert to one other point. It was said that this measure was only in furtherance of others of a more general nature, which had

received, in a great degree, the approbation of the House. He confessed that if it was a proof of stupidity not to see the value of general principles in the abstract, he must plead guilty to the charge; but at the same time, he would say, that there was no quackery more common and notorious, nor any more injurious—no theory, nor want of theory, when reduced to practice, so dangerous, as to attempt to reduce everything to certain general principles, without having recourse to the particular circumstances, or the particular times in which those principles were to be called into practice. “Ye gods! annihilate both space and time,” had been allowed under particular circumstances to be a comparatively reasonable petition. So he would say here; let gods or men destroy time, taxes, and poor-rates; and then let any newly-enlightened minister open his eager arms to admit the unrestricted commerce of the world. But until that were done, to talk of free trade, what was it but to propose that a man bound in fetters should try his strength or agility with one whose limbs were wholly free? For his own part, he could not allow 500,000 persons to be sacrificed to abstract principles, however true those principles might be. Mr Burke, with whom he fully agreed, had said, when speaking of those hard-hearted theorists, who pursued their abstract principles independently of any consequences, that they were actuated by “the quality of heart possessed by a perfect metaphysician, which exceeded that of the devil himself in malignity, and in contempt for the happiness of mankind.”

Mr Huskisson.—Whatever may be the motives of the learned gentleman who spoke last, I confess that I have listened with the utmost astonishment to the speech which he has just delivered. With regard to the general tone of the learned gentleman's speech,

I entertain no sentiment bordering upon anger, nor any other feeling, save one, a feeling of surprise and regret, at finding that learned gentleman now, for the first time, launching forth his denunciations and invectives against principles and measures, which have received the support of men the most intelligent and best informed, on both sides of this House, and throughout Europe. In opposing the proposed inquiry, I feel that I may be represented as insensible or indifferent to the sufferings of those on whose behalf it is called for. When the learned gentleman allows himself to talk of "hard-hearted metaphysicians, exceeding the devil in point of malignity," it is for me to meet that insinuation (as far it was levelled at me) with those feelings of utter scorn with which I now repel it. The hon. mover and the learned member have, by some strange perversion, argued the whole case, as if I, and those who act with me, were hastily and prematurely pressing on some unheard-of measure; instead of which, we have proposed nothing, and are lying upon our oars, quietly waiting for the going into effect of an act of Parliament, passed more than eighteen months ago, with the unanimous concurrence of this House; an act which is now the law of the land; and of the enactments of which, all the parties concerned were as fully apprized on the day when it first passed this House, as they can be at this moment. The point at issue is, not whether we shall grant the committee, but whether we shall re-establish the prohibitory system? If we re-establish it in one instance, we shall very soon be called upon to do so in many others. If we once tread back our steps, we shall not be able, in this retrograde motion, to stop at that point from which we first set out: we must go further, and, ere long, we should

have in this country a system of commerce, far more restrictive than that which was in force before the late changes. The present question, therefore, is not simply the motion before the House—but, neither more nor less than, whether a restrictive or an enlarged system of commercial policy be the best for this country? In order to come to a sound decision upon so important a subject, it behoves the House to look back a little to the course of events, and to bear in mind some of the occurrences which have materially contributed to those relaxations in the restrictive system, of which it is now the fashion to complain. With this view, I must ask the permission of the House to call its attention to a petition, presented in May 1820, a period which, like the present, was one of great difficulty and public distress. The petition conveys to the House the deliberate judgment of the merchants and traders of the city of London; the result of their daily observation of the evils inflicted upon the country by the unnecessary restrictions imposed upon their industry and pursuits. (The hon. gentleman here read the petition.) It will be clear to all who have attended to the very able document which I have just read, that it embraces all the great principles of commercial policy, upon which parliament has since legislated. Why do I lay so much stress upon this petition? For the purpose of showing, first, that if the government have pursued this course, we have done so, not on the recommendations of visionaries and theorists, but of practical men of business: secondly, that the merchants of the city of London—the great mart of the commerce and wealth of the country—felt convinced, in 1820, that the distress of that period was greatly aggravated by the narrow and short-sighted system of restrictions

and prohibitions which then prevailed. This morning I took the trouble to look at the names of the merchants who signed it; and the first signature I read is that of one of the most distinguished of that class in the city of London—I mean Mr Samuel Thornton. And, besides his name, the list contains the names of others, who, like him, have been Governors of the Bank of England; of several who are now in the direction of that great establishment; and of many who hold the highest rank in the commercial world. By a reference to many other petitions and proceedings of a like nature with those to which I have already adverted, I could show that, in all these matters, the first impulse was not given by the government. We claim for ourselves no such credit. Year after year, have we been urged, by the force of public opinion out of doors, and by the earnest remonstrances of hon. members within, to adopt the very measures against which a senseless clamour is now attempted to be excited. Who were the first, and the most earnest, in suggesting these measures—ay, and in wishing to push them to extremes—but some of those very persons whom we now find arrayed against us, and against those principles which they formerly supported? By whom was the petition which I have just read to the House presented? By whom was the prayer of it advocated? After great note of preparation—after a formal notice of what was about to come—this petition, sir, was brought down, on the 8th of May, 1820, by the hon. member (Mr Baring.) The period at which this petition was laid upon our table, was one of great public distress; and, in that respect, it but too much resembled the present time. In the opinion of the hon. member, at that time, a free trade was the very essence of

commercial prosperity; and, therefore, he pressed us to adopt, all at once, the system which we have since gradually introduced. The hon. member then went on to say, that he perfectly agreed with him—that “the first doctrine which the petitioners wished to combat was that fallacious one, which had, of late years, arisen, that this country ought to subsist on its own produce; that it was wise, on the part of every country, to raise within itself the produce requisite for its consumption.” It is really absurd to contend, (continued the hon. member,) that if a country, by selling any article of manufacture, could purchase the produce which it might require, at one half the expense at which that produce could be raised, it should nevertheless be precluded from doing so.—This is unquestionably sound doctrine, and I readily admit it. But, how is it to be reconciled with the doctrine, which is now maintained by great authorities out of doors, as that which ought to be the rule of our commercial policy? According to these authorities, to which we have now to add that of the learned seconder of the present motion, prohibition is the only effectual protection to trade. But, if this system be wise and just in itself; if, for the reasons alleged in its support, it be necessary for the protection of British industry, let us see to what it leads. Can this country command labour on the same terms as Ireland? Is the scale of taxation the same? Are the poor-rates the same in the two countries? Is there any country in Europe which, more than Ireland, differs from Great Britain in these and many other particulars, affecting their commercial relations? Does it not follow, that, if we admit the system of prohibitions now recommended to us by the learned member, we must prohibit all commercial inter-

course with Ireland? I have no desire to disturb the partizans of the opposite system, in the enjoyment of their favourite theory. All I ask of them is, a similar forbearance towards us. Let each system be fully and fairly tried. But can prohibition ever be tried under circumstances of greater favour than it now experiences in Spain? In that flourishing country, prohibition has been carried to the very extreme. Spain is the best sample of the prohibitory system; the most perfect model of fallen greatness and of internal misery, of which modern civilization forms an example. I must now beg the House to indulge me for a little, while I endeavour to go through the detail of the specific measures recommended in the speech of the hon. member (Mr Baring) on presenting the London petition. The first measure pointed out upon that occasion, and recommended in the warmest terms to the attention of ministers, for the relief of the country, was "an alteration of the duty on the importation of wool." What, at that time, was our answer to this proposition? Why, this,—“We have no objection to take off the duty on the importation of foreign wool, provided you will consent to allow the free exportation of British wool.” “No,” said the woollen manufacturers, “take off the duty on foreign wool, if you please; but keep in force the law which prohibits the exportation of British wool from this country.” To this proposal we would not agree. After years and years of struggle, we at last succeeded in convincing our opponents that the duty on foreign wool might be taken off, and the prohibition to export British wool be repealed, without endangering their interests. And what has been the result? Where is the ruin that was so confidently predicted? Why, that since the removal of the restrictions

on the export, we have sent abroad the amazing quantity of 100,000 lbs. weight of British wool; while of foreign wool we have imported no less a quantity than 40,000,000 lbs. weight. The second measure proposed by the hon. member, was a general revision of the revenue laws, with a view to their simplification. The task was one of great magnitude and difficulty; but we did not shrink from it. Of the difficulties of the undertaking, the House will be enabled to judge, when I state that there were no fewer than five hundred statutes, relative to the Customs alone, to wade through; independently of the numerous enactments concerning smuggling, warehousing, the plantations, &c. And now, sir, in one little volume, which I hold in my hand, are comprised all the laws at present in existence, on the subject of the management and the revenue of the customs, of navigation, of smuggling, of warehousing, and of our colonial trade. Then comes the third recommendation of the hon. member; namely, that we should do away with prohibitions altogether; and substitute, in all cases, protecting for prohibitory duties. I will beg leave to read a short extract from what I consider a very accurate report of this part of the hon. member's speech: “Another desirable step,” said he, “would be to do away with prohibitions, as much as possible.” Now, here we have the opinion of a practical man, who had come to this conclusion, after collecting the best evidence upon the subject, during his repeated visits to Paris. Even in the year 1817—also a period of distress—I find the hon. member declaring to the House, that, “in the article of silk, smuggling was carried on to a very great extent; a proof of which was to be found in the fact, that although silks were in much greater

use now than formerly, yet that the British manufacturer was ruined." So that it appears, sir, that in the year 1817, the silk manufacture, which, according to the doctrines of the present day, can only flourish under a system of prohibition, was, in a state of ruin, owing to prohibition. The stagnation and embarrassment which took place in 1816 and 1817 were followed by a state of unusual commercial activity. In like manner, the depression of 1822 and 1823 terminated in the extraordinary spirit of speculation which marked the autumn of 1824, and the spring and summer of 1825. In 1816 and 1817, during the first absorption of treasure by the Bank, the amount of silk imported was, upon the average of the two years, 1,150,807 lbs.:—in 1818, during the first flight of our coin to the continent, that importation was raised to 2,101,618 lbs., being an increase of 81 per cent. Of sheep's wool, the average importation of the first two years was 11,416,853 lbs.:—in the year 1818 alone, the quantity was 24,505,486 lbs., being an increase of 180 per cent. Of cotton wool, the average of the two first years was 423,580 bales:—the amount in 1818, was 660,580 bales, being an increase of 57 per cent. Let us now compare the import of the same articles in the years 1823 and 1824, with the import of 1825. It will turn out as follows:—Silk, average import of 1823 and 1824, 2,780,600 lbs.:—import of 1825, 4,231,673 lbs., being an increase at the rate of 50 per cent. Sheep's wool, average import of 1823 and 1824, 19,225,306 lbs.:—import of 1825, 38,705,682 lbs., being an increase at the rate of 100 per cent. Cotton wool, average import of 1823 and 1824, 167,120,065 lbs.:—import of 1825, 222,457,616 lbs., being an increase at the rate of 33 per cent. To return, sir, to the speech of the

hon. member (Mr Baring.) The fourth point to which he called the attention of government was, the state of the Navigation Laws. The change which the hon. member recommended would, in fact, have amounted to the total repeal of those laws. We professed ourselves ready to inquire, how far some of their regulations, inconvenient to trade, might be dispensed with, without prejudice to the higher political objects for which these laws were originally enacted. This inquiry was gone into with great care by a committee; and the result has been that, by its zeal and diligence, several measures have been introduced to the House which have led to a relaxation in those laws, highly beneficial to the commerce of the country, and in no way injurious to our strength as a maritime power. But the principle of those laws is still retained. In this instance, certainly, we have not been able to go all the lengths recommended by the practical men; but be it recollected, that the charge against which I am now upon my defence is, that we are theorists. The fifth point which was strongly recommended by the hon. member (Mr Baring), was the removal of the transit duties on German linens, and some other articles of foreign produce. The transit duties have been all removed; and the system of bounties and drawbacks has undergone an entire revision, and been remodelled on an improved plan. To come to the sixth recommendation of the hon. member. He told us that "it was of importance that we should alter our commercial regulations with respect to France." This advice of the hon. member, government have also attended to. What have we to do in this case? We have begun at home. We have set an example to the nations of the continent. We have put an end to the restrictive system affecting France, as far as we could put an end

to it; and we have invited France to follow in our track, by doing away with the obstacles existing on her part to a greater freedom of trade. France has taken a first step towards placing the intercourse between the two countries upon a footing of greater facility. This is a practical approximation on her part to the principle of a more enlarged system of commerce. Seventhly, and lastly, the hon. member recommended to government "an extension of our trade with British India." In answer to this suggestion, it is only necessary for me to say, that our attention has been incessantly directed towards that desirable object. We have left no steps untried, to prevail on the East India Company to consent to an enlargement of the private trade. To a certain point we have succeeded, though not to the extent of our wishes. If all that the hon. member sought for has not been done, the fault is not ours; we have no means of compelling the Company to comply with the wishes of the merchants. These are the principal improvements which were urged on the government of the country, in the year 1820, by the hon. member (Mr Baring); speaking, be it always remembered, in the name and on the behalf of the merchants of London. To all of these suggestions, I say, his Majesty's ministers attended. The consequence was, a determination, on their part, to institute an inquiry before a committee of this House, in order to ascertain how far the steps recommended could be acted upon for the general improvement of commerce. In the other House of Parliament, a committee was sitting, whose labours were directed to the same object. One of the subjects which particularly engaged the attention of that committee, was the state of the silk trade. They heard evidence, they called for papers, and they examined witnesses from every quarter. What was the result

of their investigation? Why, sir, they state in their report, that, "it appears to the committee, that there are no bounds to smuggling under the prohibitive system; and that, in the opinion of the committee, protecting duties might advantageously be substituted for prohibitive ones." Nothing further took place till 1823, when the hon. member for the city of London (Mr T. Wilson) came down to this House with a petition from the master manufacturers of Spitalfields, praying for a repeal of what is generally called "The Spitalfields' Act." This, as the House well knows, was a law for regulating the mode of working in that district, and for enabling the magistrates to fix the rate of wages to be given for each description of work. The petitioners stated, "that with our unlimited supply of silk from our territories in India, we might be independent of the rest of the world; that with our great command of capital, and the unrivalled skill of our artisans, the manufacturers did not fear the competition of any foreigners; and that with a free trade, silk would become, like cotton, one of the staple manufactures of the country." I refer to that petition, as well as to the more general petition of the merchants of London, to show that the measures which ministers have taken, are neither the offspring of theory, nor measures which they carried in opposition to the prevailing opinion of the country, or of the trade. So far was government from any precipitation in carrying them into effect, that it was not till the year 1824, that they determined to propose the repeal of the duty on the raw material, and to permit the importation of foreign manufactured silk, subject to a protecting duty. From that moment, we lost the support of the hon. member (Mr Baring) to whom I have so often alluded; and his voice was only heard in opposi-

tion to measures, which he had so long been recommending for our adoption. Then it was, that he declared, that, by the end of the two years, which I proposed to allow before the prohibition should finally cease, the silk trade would be destroyed. This delay I now consider to have been the greatest error that was then committed, and the origin of our present difficulty, as far as this trade is concerned. Let us now see how far the predictions of the hon. members (Mr Baring and Mr Ellice) have been realized. The bill passed this House in the spring of 1824; and during the rest of, that year, the silk trade went on flourishing and increasing. In the spring of 1825, there prevailed an extension of demand in this manufacture, to a greater degree than had ever been witnessed before, in almost any branch of trade. The old mills were not sufficient; many new ones were raised, the erection of each of which, I am assured, did not cost less than from 10,000*l.* to 15,000*l.*; and several of these new mills have not even yet been roofed in. The learned member (Mr J. Williams) has alluded to the present condition of the town of Macclesfield. I know what misfortunes and bankruptcies have occurred there. But I cannot help thinking that the learned member, in stating their situation, should also have stated some of the circumstances which have aggravated, if not created, their present difficulties; for certain it is, that the spirit of speculation has in that town been carried to the greatest extravagance. According to the last census in 1821, the whole population of Macclesfield amounted to 17,746 souls. Now I will suppose that, between that year and the year 1825, it increased to 20,000. What, then, in that year, was the demand for additional labour, in the silk manufacture alone, of that town? I have seen, in a Macclesfield

newspaper, of the 19th of February, 1825, the following advertisement:—
“To overseers, guardians of the poor, and families desirous of settling in Macclesfield. Wanted immediately, from four to five thousand persons.” The House may well express their surprise; but I beseech their attention to the description of persons required by this advertisement—“from seven to twenty years of age”—so that the silk manufacturers were content to receive children of the tender age of only seven years—“to be employed in the throwing and manufacturing of silk. The great increase of the trade having caused a great scarcity of workmen, it is suggested, that this is a most favourable opportunity for persons with large families, and overseers who wish to put out children”—(children of seven years of age)—“as apprentices, to ensure them a comfortable livelihood. Application to be made, if by letter, post paid, to the printer of this paper.” Very soon after this advertisement, and before the mills were finished, in which these children were to be immured, there appeared, I have been assured, another advertisement, nearly in the same extravagant style:—“Wanted to be built immediately, one thousand houses!”—doubtless, to contain the five thousand new inhabitants. Yet, all this took place in 1825; just one year, according to the hon. member (Mr Baring), before the silk trade was to expire for ever. Can any man wonder, after such an enormous extent of speculation—after such an influx of population—at most of these new comers being out of work at Macclesfield—or at the fact stated by the learned member (Mr J. Williams)—his hair almost standing on end with horror—“that eleven orders for the removal of as many paupers, had been made out in one week?” (The hon. gentleman then proceeded to vindicate

the measures of commercial policy which had been adopted the preceding session, and then returned to the special subject of the silk trade.) I come now to the real jet of the silk question; and which has not been in the slightest degree touched upon yet. The object of the British manufacturer is, as much as possible, to shut out the competition of his foreign rival. If smuggling could be prevented, I would concede to him, that prohibition would be most effectual to this object. But, if it cannot, what is the advantage of prohibition over a protecting duty of 30 per cent? I say of 30 per cent, because I never yet conversed with a single merchant or manufacturer, who did not admit that, if a higher protecting duty were imposed, the supply of foreign silk goods would be thrown into the hands of the smuggler. The question, then, looking at it practically, is this:—In what degree is prohibition better, as against smuggling, than a well-regulated duty? In the first place, it cannot be denied, that the feelings of mankind are more likely to restrain them from committing a fraud, than from violating a custom-house prohibition. I am sure it will be conceded to me, that many hon. persons would feel very little scruple in wearing an article that is absolutely prohibited, and the introduction of which is not in opposition to any moral duty. But the great, indeed the only argument in favour of prohibition, in preference to a protecting duty, is this—that after the forbidden goods have been landed in this country, and when they are in the possession of individuals, even for their own use or consumption, you may follow them into private dwellings, nay, into the very pockets of the wearers, and seize them upon their persons, in the King's name, at the bare suggestion of any common informer. To what does this power

of seizing and examining all who may be suspected of possessing prohibited articles amount? Sir, it amounts to this—that if any man—no matter what may be his rank, be he the humblest peasant or the highest peer in the realm—be suspected of wearing, or possessing, a silk handkerchief of foreign manufacture, he is liable to have it taken from his neck or his pocket, and to have his house ransacked, from the garret to the cellar, in quest of contraband articles. If, without such a subsidiary regulation as this, prohibition cannot be sustained, then, sir, I say, in preference to such a system, let us, in God's name, have a well-regulated duty. But, even with the aid of this power of search and seizure, is prohibition an effectual remedy against smuggling? I have lately taken some pains to ascertain the quantity of smuggled silk that has been seized, inland, throughout the kingdom, during the last ten years: and I find that the whole does not exceed 5000*l.* a-year. I have endeavoured, on the other hand, to get an account of the quantity of silk goods actually smuggled into this country. Any estimate of this quantity must be very vague; but I have been given to understand, that the value of such goods as are regularly entered at the custom-house of France for exportation to this country, is from 100,000*l.* to 150,000*l.* a-year; and this, of course, is exclusive of the far greater supply which is poured in, through all the channels of smuggling, without being subjected to any entry. In fact, to such an extent is this illicit trade carried on, that there is scarcely a haberdasher's shop, in the smallest village of the kingdom, in which prohibited silks are not sold; and that in the face of day, and to a very considerable extent. The hon. mover has mentioned the silk goods from India, as those against which

anything but prohibition would prove an unavailing protection. Now, in my opinion, it is scarcely possible to conceive a stronger case than those very silks furnish against the hon. member's own argument. I believe it is universally known, that a large quantity of Bandana handkerchiefs are sold, every year, for exportation, by the East India Company. But does any gentleman suppose, that these Bandanas are sent to the continent for the purpose of remaining there? No such thing! they are sold at the company's sales, to the number of 800,000 or a million of handkerchiefs each year, at the rate of about four shillings each. They are immediately shipped off for Hamburg, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Ostend, or Guernsey—and, from thence, they nearly all, illicitly, find their way back to this country. Upon every information laid under this prohibitory law, the chances are, that the informer and the constable have Bandanas round their necks, and that the magistrate, who hears the charge, has one in his pocket! But, since the repeal of the old law, a further difficulty has occurred in respect to prohibition. Two years ago, when a piece of silk was seized as foreign, the British manufacturer could, upon inspecting it, at once say, "I know, and can prove, that this is not of the manufacture of this kingdom." If asked, "What is your proof?" he would reply, "The superior quality and workmanship of the article." This is a very natural answer for monopoly to make; but it comes with a bad grace from a British manufacturer. But, it may be asked, if excellence of fabric was, at that time, the proof that the article was not British, why is it not so still? I shall give the best answer to this question, by stating what has recently occurred. Soon after the alteration of our law, an ex-

tensive French manufacturer removed from Lyons to this country. He brought with him his looms and his patterns. Under his management and superintendence, two establishments were formed, one in Spitalfields, the other at Manchester. At both of these places he set weavers to work; fully satisfied, that a duty of 30 per cent would afford him sufficient protection. His improved methods—with sorrow I state it—excited the jealousy, and drew upon him the persecution, of the English manufacturers. They charged this industrious foreigner, most unjustly, with carrying on his trade here merely as a cloak to cover the smuggling of foreign manufactured goods. They even went the length of charging my hon. friend, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the whole Board of Customs, with being cognizant of the fact. This accusation was not merely insinuated in whispers: it was contained in a published report, inserted in the newspapers. This was not to be endured. The Treasury determined to sift the matter to the bottom. They inspected the manufacturer's books, and found the charge to be wholly unfounded. But the accusers persevered in their charge, and insisted that the whole was a concerted plot. The Treasury, in consequence, resolved to sift the matter still farther; and it was left to the accusers to point out the mode. In order to prosecute the inquiry, they selected from their own body, the person whom they considered the most skilled in the knowledge requisite for the detection of such articles as might be contraband. And what, towards him, was the conduct of the party accused? "Go to my warehouse," said the Frenchman, "turn over all my goods; select from among them whatever pieces you please; and, on the proof of their

being of English or French manufacture, let my guilt or innocence be finally established." The offer was accepted. The person employed by the British manufacturers turned over and over several hundred pieces of silk; and at length, after the whole ordeal was passed, the Board of Customs made known the result. What is the substance of it? Why, that thirty-seven pieces had been selected by this agent of the accusers, as being, beyond all doubt, of French manufacture. What followed? These thirty-seven pieces were seized; and the Frenchman was put upon his proof, that they were made in this country. How did he prove it? By producing, one after another, the very men by whom every one of these thirty-seven pieces had been made, who proved, upon their oaths, in the most irrefragable manner, that every inch of these goods had been woven by themselves—Where? Not at Lyons—not in France—but in Spitalfields and Manchester. I have stated these facts with feelings, I own, bordering on disgust. It shows, in the clearest manner, that, if you continue to seize silk goods, in private houses, in shops, or upon individuals, you have now lost your former test, by which you could prove them to be of foreign origin. But appeals have been made to our compassion; and our feelings have been alarmed by the statement, that above 500,000 individuals are at present engaged in the silk trade. Now, supposing that the number of persons who are employed in the silk manufacture amounts to 500,000,—their wages, I assume, cannot be less, one with another, than 10*s.* a-week for each person. I have been told, indeed, that a considerable portion of this number are children, some of whom do not receive more than 1*s.* 6*d.* a-week. If this be so, let us not talk of the dif-

ference in the expense of labour between this country and France. Will it be said, that a French child cannot earn in the silk manufactory 1*s.* 6*d.* a-week; and that, without working from fourteen to fifteen hours out of the four-and-twenty? Certainly not. Supposing, however, the average earnings of these 500,000 persons—(an exaggerated number, I am convinced)—to be ten shillings a-week, thirteen millions of money would then be the annual amount of wages alone in this manufacture. To this are to be added, the interest on capital, and the price of the raw material: so that the value of the goods sold could not be less than eighteen or twenty millions sterling. This, however, I consider too high a calculation. The Lords' Report estimates the whole amount at only ten millions; but allowing for increased consumption since 1821, it may, perhaps, be fairly rated at twelve or fourteen millions, exclusive of the quantity smuggled in from the continent. If, then, fourteen millions of silk goods are about the annual consumption of this kingdom, what would happen, if, according to the predictions of the hon. member (Mr Baring) the British manufacture should be annihilated after next July? We should not, I take it for granted, consume a less quantity of silk goods: the only change would be, that we should have them, as it is alleged, of a better quality, and at a less price. But all the goods so consumed would, on this supposition, have paid a duty of thirty per cent on their importation; and the produce of that duty, consequently, would exceed four millions sterling. This large sum would be levied without, in the smallest degree, abridging the comfort or enjoyment of any other class of the community. It would simply be the premium of monopoly transferred to the exchequer. But

of such an issue, I am persuaded, there is no risk. The whole consumption of silk goods in France is not equal to the consumption in England. Now, supposing when the bill comes into operation, there should be a greatly increased demand in this country for French silks—this new and additional demand would produce a corresponding advance in the price of the goods, and in the wages of labour, in France. To a certain extent, there may be such a demand, especially at the first opening of the trade; but I am convinced that, with the attention to economy which competition excites, with our improved machinery, our industry and ingenuity, and perhaps with the lowered prices of labour and the means of subsistence—a protecting duty of thirty per cent will be found to be sufficient. The House is called upon, by the motion of the hon. mover, “to inquire.” Has it never inquired before? Has the House of Lords entered into no investigation of the subject? And did not that investigation take place at a period, when taxation and prices were very considerably higher than at present? Was that inquiry loosely conducted? Certainly not. It was the opinion of that committee, after taking a mass of evidence on oath, that a duty of fifteen per cent would be an adequate protection, instead of a duty of double that amount, under which the experiment is now to be made.

Mr Baring rose, but the cries for an adjournment becoming general, on the motion of Mr Canning, the debate was adjourned to to-morrow.

Feb. 24. The order of the day having been moved for resuming the adjourned debate on Mr Ellice's motion,

Mr Baring said, that after the able and eloquent speech of the right hon.

gentleman (Mr Huskisson) it was with great diffidence that he rose to address the House. The right hon. gentleman had commented upon the petition which he (Mr Baring) had had the honour of presenting from the bankers, merchants, and traders of London, in 1820, and also upon the remarks which he had offered to the House in laying it upon the table. The country, however, was then in a very different condition from its present one. The merchants were hampered by various regulations, which owed their existence to the war. The laws of customs and finance were in such a state of intricacy and confusion, so full of embarrassment and contradictions, and so productive of charge and trouble, that it was impossible for any man, without the study of a life, to know what he was entitled to do under them. The evil was so universally felt, as to render the application of some remedy a matter of urgent necessity. With respect to the principles of free trade, all that he had ever meant to say was, that they did not preclude the consideration of peculiar circumstances, and had nothing in them which prevented us, in their application, from yielding to the force of events, when the necessity of making an exception to the general rule was clearly proved. For the science of political economy he entertained a due respect. It was a notorious fact, however, that there were scarcely any two writers, on the question of the Corn Laws, who did not differ radically from each other on the most material and important point. When this difficulty was obviated, and when the learned professors of Oxford and of London should have established the perfection of political truth, he would admit the force of all their conclusions; but until that consummation should take place, —until the theorists should cease to

abuse each other as the greatest of dunces and fools, for not drawing the same conclusions from the same facts, he should consult," before he legislated, the more humble practical man, who looked at the effect, whilst they were calculating upon the cause, and who told them that a thing was not so, when they proved by direct ratiocination that it must be so. His right hon. friend had undertaken to entertain the House, by pointing out the inconsistency which prevailed between the sentiments which he (Mr Baring) avowed at present, and those which he had expressed in 1820. He had completely forgotten how open he himself was to a similar charge, and that, too, not upon trifling questions. He (Mr Baring) could not but complain, that in all cases which had recently come before them, ministers had displayed a wish to push theory beyond all proper bounds. In the case of the 1*l*. and 2*l*. notes, they had shown a disposition to come to a definite conclusion without consulting the practical men. In every case principles were pushed to the utmost extremity; and out of this mistake of the government arose much of the distress of the country. We lived in times and amid relations which were of too complex a nature to suffer in safety the rigorous application of principles. His hon. friend, (Mr Ellice,) in asking them to refer this question to the consideration of a committee, disputed the principle on which the late regulations for the silk trade were founded. It was said that we had laboured till the present day under a complete ignorance of the mode in which this trade was conducted in foreign countries. The persons carrying on the trade in this country were as ignorant upon the point as the government itself appeared to be. They sent, however, a deputation of well-qualified indivi-

duals into foreign countries, for the purpose of acquiring information as to the silk trade in those countries; and those individuals found to their surprise, that the silk trade in this country had no superiority of capital—that our workmen were inferior in skill—that we were behind them in machinery—and that with an inferiority of skill, machinery, and capital, it was not likely that we should drive their silk manufactures from any market. He was convinced that the capital employed in the town of Basle alone beat that employed in the town of Coventry out and out. It appeared, upon the whole, that at Lyons those manufactures were 45 per cent lower than in England, and that in Switzerland the average difference in favour of that country was from 50 to 60 per cent on plain goods, and from 60 to 100 per cent on figured goods. Besides the advantage which the foreign manufacturers had over those of England, in the plentiful supply of the raw material, they had the great advantage of cheap labour. Not only was bread at a much less price, but the foreign labourer lived in a very different way from the English artizan. He had heard that the manufacturers of Lyons lodged and fed their workmen; and upon inquiry, he learnt that the master crammed forty of his workmen into a long garret over his workshop, where they slept upon straw. He did not believe his right hon. friend opposite was so great an advocate for all the dogmas of political economy, that he meant to set up the rigid doctrine, that if the trade could not support itself it ought to be destroyed; but he had expressed his belief that a duty of 30 per cent would be enough to protect it against the competition of other nations; which was going quite far enough. After a trade had been fostered and nursed up to this state—

after it had been protected for so many years by a system of prohibition, would the House now consent to a measure which must have the effect of driving all the workmen connected with it to the poor-rate for subsistence? In the whole of his right hon. friend's speech he had never touched upon the question of the possibility of carrying on the trade. Now the fact was, that the situation of this manufacture opened a very serious case as concerned the country at large, and all the other manufactures which it contained; for what was now done with the silk, might be, and must be, done hereafter with respect to cotton and woollen. If things should remain in this state, the inevitable consequence must be, that the manufactures would leave us, and those which were most advantageous would lose even the home-market which they enjoyed at present. It was known that the seat of manufactures had several times been changed. We were losing a little every now and then; and if the progress of our loss was not quickly and satisfactorily arrested, we should be left in the most miserable of all possible conditions—that of a nation, from which its wealth had departed. It was true, that there were many circumstances in this country which tended to the preservation of its manufactures. Amongst these, its naval superiority was a principal source. The power which had the command of the sea must, in war times, have the command also of all the markets which could be reached by her ships. This naval preponderance was of course lost to us when the war ceased; and he must remind the House that every day's continuance of peace helped to wear away the advantages which our manufacturers had derived from this cause. If his right hon. friend was resolutely bent upon applying free principles to the silk

trade, he must give them entire and universal operation, or he would do great injustice. He must take that other step, and must not refuse to the cries of the people whom this measure would throw out of bread, that without which they could not exist—a free trade in corn. In the present state of the subject, he did not see upon what ground his right hon. friend could refuse to go into an inquiry. Here were hundreds of thousands of poor honest men who found on a sudden that they were to be ousted from the earnings of their industrious and patient labours. These people were loyal, orderly, and well-behaved, and yet they found themselves on the very brink of the most painful distress, owing to the discoveries of the political economists. It had been said by his right hon. friend that the great cause of the inconvenience felt in the silk trade had been occasioned by over-trading; but no proof had been offered in support of this assertion. On the contrary, the stock in hand was not greater than usual—a circumstance which could not exist if there had been anything like that over-trading which had been imputed. The right hon. gentleman said, that if the House were to take a retrograde step, it would be looked upon as a failure of the liberal system of policy in which this country had embarked, and we must give up all prospect of seeing the example, which we had set, imitated by foreign nations. He (Mr Baring) would, however, wish the House to consider the situation in which we should be, if we made the attempt and failed. What encouragement would then exist for adhering to the right hon. gentleman's liberal system? He thought the right hon. gentleman was proceeding on wrong grounds with respect to the whole of his commercial system. The right honour-

able gentleman ought to begin with the corn laws. Upon the price of corn depended the price of labour. So long as there was a monopoly with regard to corn, there could be no real freedom in any other branch of trade. The right hon. gentleman knew that, and he wished to settle the question of the corn-trade as much as any man; but he could not do so at the present moment.

Mr C. Grant supported Mr Huskisson's views at considerable length, observing that the question was, simply, were they to continue a competition—for competition they would have—under the protection of the laws, or leave the same competition, as it had hitherto been left, to work its way in the dark, silently undermining the exertions of the manufacturer,—in order to preserve a monopoly to the foreign manufacturer and the smuggler? With regard to the incapacity of our manufacturers to compete with foreign ones, he observed, we had always complaints of incapacity, until capacity, was put to the trial: he understood that already, in the very prospect only of the trade being thrown open, improvements in the silk machinery were carrying into execution. According to a letter only yesterday received from Manchester, an attempt to weave by steam had been made, and succeeded. Two pair of gros-de-Naples looms, weaving each 108 yards of silk a-week, were attended by a woman at 14s. a-week wages: this was about 3d. a-yard for wages; and the cost of house-rent, with the interest of the value of the loom, which was 12l., might be taken at a farthing more; then the price at which this work was done was 3½d., which could not be done in France under 7d.

Mr Dickenson denied the excessive speculation for which ministers

blamed the silk-manufacturers, and attributed much of the general distress of the country to their own unfounded and delusive statements as to its prosperity. We should get nothing by these new measures, or new principles: where was the reciprocity which had been so promised and talked about? Other countries said plainly that they saw how we had grown rich—by our system of exclusion; that they desired no participation in our liberal modern policy. It was the misery of England, that she was always run away with by some visionary speculation or other. One year, Mr Owen figured with his parallelograms. The next, some other gentleman came from Scotland to prove that absenteeism was no evil to Ireland; and it was difficult to imagine any absurdity, however monstrous, which some philosophers might not be found, upon the most liberal and indisputable principles, to attempt to prove.

Mr Ware said, that it did not seem to him that the hon. member (Mr Ellice) had made out any case for his motion. If the introduction of French silks into the English market would have ruined our manufacturers, they would have been ruined long ago; for our preventive service people admitted that spirits might be kept out, but that dry goods could not.

Mr P. Moore, after describing the distress of the silk-weavers, implored government to abandon all principle, and think only of saving the people.

Mr Palmer said, that at a meeting which had recently taken place, he had stated to his honourable friend (Mr Ellice,) that he felt inclined to support the motion for a committee. But he would ask of the House, whether a speech had not been subsequently delivered, which proved to demonstration that his hon. friend was

in the wrong. He could assure his honourable friend that if going into a committee were likely to do even a trifling good to those individuals whose case he had so ably advocated, he would cheerfully vote with him; but feeling that, so far from doing good, it would effect much harm, by holding out fallacious hopes to those individuals,—he must oppose the proposition.

Mr Canning:—The House, on the one hand, will not suspect me of having the bad taste, after the luminous, exposition of my right hon. friend, to intrude on their time, by discussing the whole of this vast subject;—on the other hand, it would feel that I did not do my duty by the House, by the country, or by my right hon. friend, if, leaving to him the whole weight of the debate, I omitted to claim for myself a full participation in the responsibility incurred by the introduction of those measures which he has so successfully explained and defended. It is for this purpose, then, that I now present myself to the House; and I do so because I have witnessed for the last six months, the diligent, the systematic attacks made upon the plans and measures, as well as upon the public character of my right hon. friend; attacks made, no doubt, with the hope that they would prove injurious to his fame and subversive of the sound commercial principles which he has so long and so anxiously exerted himself to introduce and establish. What, I will ask, would be the effect of our going into the proposed committee? The question, let it be beaten out into as many shapes as you please, is simply this,—would a prohibition of foreign silks protect our trade as well as our moderate duty, such as that proposed by my right hon. friend? I will not fatigue the House by an unnecessary repetition of the arguments

which have proved the negative of this proposition; but, to my mind, it is clear that a law of prohibition would fail as a measure of protection, while it would re-introduce into our system those vicious principles which we have found such difficulty in expelling from it. The evil which we have put down would reappear, and, like a noisome weed, rapidly increase in growth, till it overspread the whole soil of our commercial industry. But, sir, this is not the point upon which I felt myself most immediately called upon to answer the appeal of hon. members. It cannot be denied, sir, that, under cover of the measure which the hon. gentleman (Mr Ellice) has thought proper to bring forward, an opportunity has been taken, not by the hon. member, but by others, to attack the commercial regulations now in progress; measures more seriously deliberated upon, and introduced with the more universal consent of all those whose judgments were likely to be best enlightened on such matters, than any other acts of our public policy within my recollection. The learned member (Mr Williams) has not disdained to call to his aid in the course of his address, all the vulgar topics of ribald invective with which my right hon. friend has been assailed elsewhere; and in the spirit of these attacks, has attributed to him feelings unknown to his heart, and sentiments utterly alien from his nature. And why, I ask, has my right hon. friend been subjected to these attacks? Because, sir, with an industry and intelligence never exceeded, and rarely equalled, he has devoted his daily labour and his nightly toil to the improvement of the commercial system of his country. Sir, when this attack was made, the House felt, as one man, the injustice done to my right hon. friend; and if, in addition to the conscious rectitude of his own

mind, and to the gratifying acknowledgment by this House, of his splendid exertions, he wished for another gratification, he had it in the universal feeling of indignation at the attempt so wantonly made to lower him and his measures in the public opinion. And then, forsooth, came the assertion, that nothing personal was meant.—Nothing personal, sir! Did we not hear mention made of hard-hearted metaphysicians, and of the malignity of the devil! Nothing personal!—certainly nothing personal to the devil, who, by the way, and it is a curious coincidence, is, according to an old proverb, the patron saint of the city which the learned gentleman represents. These topics, sir, are as vulgar as they are unjust. Why is it to be supposed that the application of philosophy—for I will use that odious word—why is it to be supposed, that to apply the refinement of philosophy to the affairs of common life, indicates obduracy of feeling or obtuseness of sensibility? We must deal with the affairs of men on abstract principles, modified of course according to times and circumstances. Is not the doctrine and the spirit which now animate those who persecute my right hon. friend, the same which, in former times, stirred up persecution against the best benefactors of mankind? Is it not the same doctrine and spirit which embittered the life of Turgot? Is it not a doctrine and a spirit such as these, which consigned Galileo to the dungeons of the Inquisition? Is it not a doctrine and a spirit such as these, which have, at all times, been at work to stay public advancement, and to roll back the tide of civilization—a doctrine and a spirit actuating little minds, who, incapable of reaching the heights from which alone extended views of human nature can be taken, console and revenge themselves

by calumniating and misrepresenting those who have toiled to those heights, for the advantage of mankind. Sir, I have not to learn that there is a faction in the country—I mean not a political faction—I should, perhaps, rather have said a sect, small in numbers, and powerless in might, who think that all advances towards improvement are retrogradations towards jacobinism. These persons seem to imagine that, under no possible circumstances, can an honest man endeavour to keep his country upon a line with the progress of political knowledge, and to adapt its course to the varying circumstances of the world. Such an attempt is branded as an indication of mischievous intentions, as evidence of a design to sap the foundations of the greatness of the country. Sir, I consider it to be the duty of a British statesman, in internal as well as external affairs, to hold a middle course between extremes; avoiding alike the extravagancies of despotism, or the licentiousness of unbridled freedom—reconciling power with liberty; not adopting hasty or ill-advised experiments, or pursuing any airy and unsubstantial theories; but, not rejecting, nevertheless, the application of sound and wholesome knowledge to practical affairs, and pressing, with sobriety and caution, into the service of his country, any generous and liberal principles, whose excess, indeed, may be dangerous, but whose foundation is in truth. This, sir, in my mind, is the true conduct of a British statesman; but they who resist indiscriminately all improvement as innovation, may find themselves compelled at last to submit to innovations, although they are not improvements. My right hon. friend has been actuated by the spirit which I have endeavoured to describe. Convinced in his own mind of the justice and ex-

pediency of the measure which he has proposed for the improvement of our commercial system, he has persuaded the House to legislate in that sense; and, as the fruits of that legislation, I anticipate increasing prosperity and growing strength to the country.—Two objections have been stated to the course which ministers are pursuing under the guidance of my right hon. friend; we are charged with having abandoned the principles of Mr Pitt, and of having borrowed a leaf from the book of Whig policy. If the latter accusation refers to the useful and honourable support which we have received on questions of commerce from some of those who are habitually our antagonists in politics, I have only to admit the fact, and to declare the satisfaction which I derive from it. But if it is meant to say that the commercial policy which we recommend to the country is founded on the principles of Whiggism, history proves that proposition to be untrue. I mean neither praise nor blame of Whig or Tory in adverting to matters which passed long before the political existence of the present generation; but, historically speaking, I must say, that freedom of commerce has, in former times, been the doctrine rather of Tories than of Whigs. If I look back, for instance, to the transactions between this country and France, the only commercial treaty which I can find, beside that which was signed by me and my right hon. friend but the other day, since the peace of Utrecht, is the convention of 1786. But, by whom was the convention of 1786 proposed and supported?—by Mr Pitt. By whom was it opposed?—by Mr Fox. I will not go into the arguments which might be used on either side. I enter not into the question, who was right or wrong. I mention the circumstance only to

show how easily facts are perverted for particular purposes of vituperation. Equally false are the grounds of the charge brought against us of having deviated from the principles of our great master. Sir, I deny that we have departed from the general principles of Mr Pitt. It is true, indeed, that no man, who has observed the signs of the times, can have failed to discover in the arguments of our opponents, upon this occasion, a secret wish to renew the Bank restriction; and it is upon that point, and with respect to measures leading in our apprehension to that point, that we are accused, and not unjustly, in differing from those who accuse us—that we are charged with a deviation from the principles of Mr Pitt, because we declared our determination not to renew an expedient which, though it was forced upon Mr Pitt by the particular circumstances of the times, is one that ought not to be dragged into a precedent. It never surely can be quoted as a spontaneous act of deliberate policy; and it was an act, be it remembered, of which Mr Pitt did not live to witness those consequences which effectually deter his successors from the repetition of it. But it is singular to remark how ready some people are to admire in a great man, the exception rather than the rule of his conduct. Such perverse worship is like the idolatry of barbarous nations, who can see the noonday splendour of the sun without emotion; but who, when he is in eclipse, come forward with hymns and cymbals to adore him. Thus there are those who venerate Mr Pitt less in the brightness of his meridian glory, than under his partial obscurations, and who gaze on him with the fondest admiration when he has accidentally ceased to shine. My admiration, “on this side only of idolatry,” of that great man, is called forth by the glorious

course which he ran, and the illumination which he shed over his country. But I do not think it the duty of a most zealous worshipper to adopt even the accidental faults of the illustrious model whom we vainly endeavour to imitate. I do not think it a part of fealty to him to adopt, without necessity, measures which necessity alone forced upon him. Treading, with unequal pace, in his steps, I do not think it our duty to select by preference, those footmarks in which, for a moment, and from the slipperiness of the times, he may have trodden awry.

The House divided—

For the motion, 40—Against it, 222—Majority, 182.

The changes—absolutely necessary changes we think—which had been made the previous session in the Navigation Laws, were particularly offensive to the shipping interest; the persons connected with which, like those engaged in the silk trade, assailed Parliament with complaints that they were eventually to be ruined, unless government retraced its steps, and again resorted to the old restrictive and prohibitive system. The question as to the propriety of these changes, was manfully brought forward, in the House of Commons by Mr Huskisson himself, the chief author of them, on May 12; and his speech on the occasion had the effect of giving a *quietus* to the question, at least for that session.

On Tuesday, Feb. 14, Mr Huskisson, in moving the order of the day for the House to resolve itself into a committee on the Navigation Laws, wished to offer a brief explanation. Two treaties were before the House, entered into by this country with the Independent States of La Plata and Colombia, in which treaties was in-

serted a stipulation that, for a certain number of years, ships not built in those countries, but manned by their subjects, should be allowed to hold intercourse with Great Britain upon the same terms as if they were in fact ships built in the ports of La Plata or Colombia. By the existing Navigation Laws, ships built in any foreign country, bringing the produce of that country, and manned by its subjects, were entitled to admission, and to certain privileges. That principle it was right to maintain: but when countries suddenly passed from the condition of colonies to that of independence, they could have few or no ships of their own, and they could have no reciprocal commerce, at least with Great Britain, if the provisions of the Navigation Laws were rigidly enforced. It had, therefore, been thought a fair arrangement for a certain number of years, until the new states could build ships of their own, and place themselves on a footing with other countries, that they should be allowed to send their produce and manufactures in foreign bottoms, and that those foreign bottoms should enjoy the same privileges as national vessels. The alteration now proposed in the Navigation Laws, was to legalize this provision in favour of the states of La Plata and Colombia, making at the same time such arrangements as would require the due proportion of *bonâ fide* native crews. He proposed also to give the Crown a prospective power of making similar arrangements with other states that might establish independent governments under the same circumstances. He should move for leave to bring in a bill to enable his Majesty to carry these stipulations into effect.

After a few remarks by Mr Robertson, Mr Heathcote, and others, the House resolved itself into a commit-

tee of the whole House, and agreed, on the motion of Mr Huskisson, to a resolution for making application to the House, "for leave to bring in a bill to carry into effect treaties of commerce entered into with certain countries of South America, which are not at present provided with national mercantile shipping."

The House then resumed, and the bill was subsequently brought in.

On February 22, the bill was read a second time.

On Friday, May 12, Mr Huskisson, on rising to move for returns relative to British shipping, seamen, &c., spoke, in substance, as follows:—"Sir, the House is aware that our Navigation Laws have a two-fold object; first, to create and maintain in this country a great commercial marine; and secondly, to prevent any one other nation from engrossing too large a portion of the navigation of the rest of the world. Acting upon this system, the general rule of our policy has been to limit, as much as possible, the right of importing the productions of foreign countries into this country, either to ships of the producing country, or to British ships. But, when I state that the first object of our navigation system was to create and uphold a great commercial marine, I think I may add, without fear of contradiction, that that object could not have been effected solely by regulations, restrictions, or prohibitions, however judiciously devised. The only true and durable foundation of a large commercial marine is to be laid in the means of affording to it beneficial employment. These two great elements of our power and wealth are, of necessity, closely and intimately connected. I do not mean to say that their interests are always identified. I am, however, at the same

time, bound to say, that those regulations are founded on the first and paramount law of every state,—the highest ground of political necessity,—the necessity of providing for our own safety and defence; the necessity of being prepared to afford security to our numerous colonial possessions scattered throughout all the seas of the world; the necessity of protecting the different branches of our widely-spread commerce against all the risks attendant on a state of war; and, lastly, the necessity of preserving our ascendancy on the ocean. Entertaining these opinions, I am as ready as any man can possibly be, to say that it is our duty, on all occasions, to look to the peculiar nature of this state necessity; and that, whenever the interests of commerce and navigation cannot be reconciled, the feeling which ought to be uppermost in our minds should be, that the interests of commerce, in all such instances, ought to give way, and those of navigation to have the preference. I begin with laying it down as a general position, that, in looking to the interest of the ship-owner, we ought not to cramp commerce beyond the degree which state necessity requires for the protection of our navigation. The questions, therefore, which we have to consider are these:—First, whether the alterations which have been made in the system of our Navigation Laws have, or have not, exposed the great public interests, for the support of which that system was established, to jeopardy and hazard? Secondly, whether those alterations are such as to have placed any particular branches of the shipping interest of the country in a situation of difficulty, such as to entitle them to specific consideration? Thirdly, whether, in the alterations which have been adopted, his Majesty's government have been actuated by a mere

gratuitous desire to make experiments, and to try the effect of innovation; or whether those alterations, even if attended with some inconvenience to particular interests, were not called for by circumstances, in order to obviate greater inconvenience which might have arisen to the general interest, if we had rigidly persisted in the course which we formerly pursued? The great charter of the navigation system of this country is the act of the twelfth of Charles II. The different modes which that act provided for the encouragement of shipping, may be arranged under the five following heads:—First, the Fisheries. It was our interest to take care that so much of those productions as might be wanted for the consumption of Great Britain, should be exclusively procured by British industry, and imported in British ships. This is so simple and reasonable a rule, that, in this part of our navigation system, no alteration whatever has been made. The second object which the Navigation Laws had in view, was to give to the shipping of this country employment in what is called the Coasting Trade. In this important part of our policy also there appears to be no motive for alteration. The third object of our navigation system was the European Trade. The rule laid down, with regard to that trade, was, that the ships of the other states of Europe were to be at liberty to bring, from any port in Europe, any article of European production, with the exception of certain articles, since known in trade by the name of ‘enumerated articles.’ With respect to these, the exception was this—that they should not be brought to our ports in any other than British ships, or ships of the country in which they were produced, proceeding directly from such country to this. This was the general state

of the law, in respect to European commerce. Its provisions, however, were more rigorous and exclusive towards Holland and the Low Countries. The fourth object of our navigation system was to regulate our commerce with Asia, Africa, and America. The rule of law on this head was, that no article, the produce of either of those three quarters of the globe, should be allowed to be brought into an English port, except in a British ship. The fifth and last part of the system of our Navigation Laws related to our colonies. The principle on which we acted towards those colonies was strictly to confine them, in all matters of trade, to an intercourse with the mother country. This, I apprehend, is a fair summary of our Navigation Laws, as those laws existed from the twelfth of Charles II., down to the year 1783. In mentioning this latter period, I advert to it now as the commencement of that mighty change in the state of the world, the foundation of which had been then laid in the progress, and unfortunate issue, of the American war. Sir, the war which began in the year 1756, commonly called the Seven Years’ war, was a war for colonial privileges, colonial claims, and colonial ascendancy. In the course of that war, British skill and British valour placed in the hands of this country Quebec and the Havannah. By the capture of these fortresses, Great Britain became mistress of the colonial destinies of the western world. What use we made of our successes in that quarter, I will not now stop to inquire. But if the proceedings of the government of this country, after the peace of 1763, be closely examined, we shall find, that many of the causes which, ten years afterwards, led to the unfortunate rupture with our then colonies, now the United States of America, may be traced to our unseason-

able attempts to enforce, in their most rigid and exclusive application, our colonial and navigation system. One instance of the character of that legislation will be sufficient. A ship from our American possessions, laden with their produce, was stranded on the coast of Ireland. It will naturally be supposed, that the cargo was landed, and the ship repaired, in that country. No such thing. The law compelled the owners to send another English ship from England, for the purpose of bringing away the cargo. It is generally believed, that the attempt to tax our American colonies, without their consent, was the sole cause of the separation of those colonies from the mother country. But, if the whole history of the period between the year 1763 and the year 1773 be attentively examined, it will, I think, be abundantly evident, that, although the attempt at taxation may have contributed somewhat to hasten the explosion, the train had been long laid, in the severe and exasperating efforts of this country, to enforce, with inopportune and increasing rigour, the strictest and most annoying regulations of our colonial and navigation code. The result is well known. The country found itself engaged in a civil war. That war, in its progress, involved us in the greatest difficulty and embarrassment. Ireland, towards which we had acted in the same spirit of commercial jealousy, took advantage of our difficulties. To the parliament and volunteers of Ireland, we had also to capitulate. The peace with America gave the first great blow to the navigation system of this country. It was impossible for us, in this new state of things, to enforce the system of our Navigation Laws. After the peace of 1783, each of the different States, then composing the Union, was at liberty to act independently of the

others, in matters relating to its trade with foreign countries. Accordingly, almost every State established a different rule of commercial intercourse with this country. The general character, however, of their legislation was conceived in a spirit of peculiar hostility to Great Britain. This state of things continued until the year 1787, when the general congress met, and one uniform system of commercial policy was laid down. By that system, a heavy blow was aimed at the navigation system of this country. It was resolved, that all foreign ships, trading to America, should pay half a dollar—which was afterwards raised to a dollar—per ton duty, beyond what was paid by national ships. And further, that goods imported in foreign vessels should pay a duty of ten per cent, over and above what was demandable on the same description of goods imported in American vessels. This system was likely to become seriously prejudicial to this country. The proper authorities, therefore, set about considering what was to be done in order to counteract it. After inquiry, and a long struggle to counteract the navigation system of America, this country found it necessary to adopt the system of reciprocity, on which, since the year 1815, the commercial intercourse between the two countries has been placed. In the practical consequences of this arrangement, our adherence to another part of our Navigation Laws, appears to me to have shackled the shipping interest of this country. Our law still provides that goods, the produce of Asia, Africa, or America, shall not be imported in foreign ships, unless they be the ships of the country of which the goods are the produce. The Americans retaliate this restriction by applying it to all goods the produce of Europe. An American ship trading to this country has, in conse-

quence, a great advantage over a British ship trading to America. The American vessel, on her voyage to England, is freighted with a cargo wholly produced in the United States. She has nothing else to bring here. For her return to America she may load in the ports of this country with a cargo, partly the produce or manufacture of Great Britain, and partly of any other country. The British ship is debarred from this advantage. Her cargo, when trading to the United States, must be exclusively of British origin. Is it not, therefore, fairly to be presumed, that a further relaxation of our system, would be rather an advantage than an injury to the shipping interest? Shortly after the commercial legislation of the United States had assumed, in 1787, a regular shape, and an uniform character, the war of the French Revolution broke out; a war which lasted nearly a quarter of a century. It is certain that the commerce of the United States was greatly benefited by the war. It is equally true, that Great Britain did extend her commercial marine, in spite of all difficulties, whilst that of the other countries of Europe was greatly reduced. Peace being restored in 1815, and with it, the independence of the states which had been incorporated with France, the commerce of the world began to revert to its ancient channels. This gave a check to the shipping of the United States, which was also felt by the shipping of this country. Besides this material circumstance, there were others, which had a natural tendency to interfere with, and diminish, the employment for shipping in this country. The first to which I shall allude is the abolition of the slave trade. I may, I think, fairly adduce the abolition of that trade as having taken away one source of employment.—After the general pacification of Eu-

rope, we insisted upon the powers of Barbary desisting from the practices of maritime warfare. Whilst this system was tolerated, scarcely any trading vessels, those of Great Britain excepted, could navigate that sea in safety. However high-minded in principle, it is not the less true that the result of our interference was injurious to the shipping interest of this country, in the Mediterranean. With the termination of hostilities, there was necessarily a diminished demand for ships in the public service. The greatest proportion of those which had been taken up as hired transports was discharged. The diminution is not less than 1226 vessels, amounting to 270,382 tons. In the next place, we had to sell out of the King's service a number of vessels of small burden. Of this class, there has been sold no less a number than 333, the amount of their tonnage being 93,530 tons. But this is not all. During the last war, we were obliged, in almost all cases, to place our merchant ships under the protection of convoy. Four or five hundred merchantmen were sometimes collected together at one point, before the required protection could be afforded them. And when, at length, these large bodies did proceed to sea, they were under the necessity of keeping together; so that the rate of sailing, during a whole voyage, was necessarily to be regulated by the progress of the slowest sailing vessel. In time of peace it is otherwise. Ships can then traverse the ocean singly, without fear of interruption; and in their passage from one port to another, as well as in loading and unloading, every exertion is used to ensure dispatch. Upon the whole, I shall not be overstating the proportion when I say that two-thirds of the number of vessels, necessary in time of war, are fully sufficient for

all the purposes of the same extent of commerce, in time of peace.—There is yet another circumstance to which, before I quit this part of the subject, I must refer. I mean the alteration made in the year 1815, in the foreign corn trade of the country. During the war, this trade afforded regular employment to no inconsiderable quantity of shipping, but since the law has been altered, and the ports have been generally shut against the importation of foreign corn, that employment has ceased. I must now crave the indulgence of the House while I show what was the situation of this country, with regard to its shipping, previous to the last war. In 1792, one of the most prosperous years which the country has ever known,—the number of registered ships in the several ports of the British empire was 16,079; the amount of their tonnage 1,540,145 tons. In the present year, that is to say, in the year ended the 31st of Dec. 1825, the number of registered ships was 24,174; and the amount of their tonnage 2,542,216 tons; showing an increase of one-third in the number of ships, and of two-fifths in the tonnage, within that period. In 1815, the number was 24,860, and the amount of their tonnage 2,681,726 tons. It appears, therefore, that there has been, since the conclusion of the war, a decrease in our shipping of 686 vessels, and 139,060 tons. From the returns, I find that the number of ships built, last year, in the several ports of the British dominions, exceeded the number built in any one year of the whole period to which I have referred. In the year 1814, when the war with France first terminated, the number of ships built was 818; the amount of their tonnage, 95,976 tons. Last year the number of ships built was 1312; the amount of their tonnage 171,827 tons.

So that in fact the tonnage of the ships built last year was little short of double the tonnage of those built in the year 1814, and exceeded considerably that of any year upon record. The only other comparison, growing out of the documents which I hold in my hand, is that of the number of ships which have entered inwards, and cleared outwards, to and from the ports of Great Britain, in the several years since the alterations which are objected to in our Navigation Laws. I will confine the comparison to the returns of vessels, British and foreign, entering inwards; I find, that, in the year ended the 25th of Dec. 1824, the number of British vessels that entered inwards was 19,164, and the amount of their tonnage 2,364,249 tons. The number of foreign vessels that entered inwards, during the same year, was 5280, the amount of their tonnage being 694,880 tons. In the year ended the 25th of Dec. 1825,—a year in which the modifications made in our Navigation Laws were in full operation,—the number of British vessels that entered inwards was 21,786; the amount of their tonnage 2,786,844 tons. The number of foreign vessels that entered inwards in that year had increased to 6561, and the amount of their tonnage to 892,601 tons. The year 1825 was, it is well known, a year of unexampled speculation in every branch of commerce. And what, as regards British shipping, was the result? Why, that the positive increase of British vessels entered inwards, as compared with the year 1824, was 2622; and of tonnage 422,595 tons; while the increase of foreign vessels entered inwards, during the same year, was in number 1281; and in tonnage 197,721 tons. The attention of the House has been specially referred to the state of the trade between this country and the

northern parts of Europe, especially Prussia. I must beg leave to enter rather more specifically into that part of the case. The number of British ships trading to the ports of Prussia in the year 1824, was 470; in the year 1825, 942; being more than double the number of the preceding year. The number of Prussian ships which came to this country, in the year 1824, was 682; in 1825, the number was 887; being an increase of about one-fourth. Having adverted to the apprehensions which are entertained respecting our trade with the ports of the Baltic, I have naturally been most anxious to sift to the bottom this important part of our inquiry. Fortunately, the state paper office has furnished me with these returns, this account I hold in my hand, from the year 1783, to the year 1792. I also hold in my hand a similar account, from the year 1816 to the year 1825, both inclusive. The total number of ships which passed the Sound was:

	British ships.	Ships of all other nations.	
In the year 1821	2819	6358	
Do. 1822	3097	5386	
Do. 1823	3016	6187	
Do. 1824	3540	6978	
Do. 1825	5186	7974	

In the hope of finding some remedy for shipping difficulties, the House, in the year 1820, appointed a select committee to inquire into the state of our foreign commerce. One change recommended by that committee, in the Navigation Laws, was to the following effect;—to allow the importation of ‘enumerated articles’ in the ships of any country into which they had been previously imported. The recommendation of the committee was adopted by the legislature. That this relaxation has been beneficial to our commerce and navigation is now, I believe, placed beyond all doubt. It was desirable, also, for the interest of our foreign trade, that we should no

longer rigidly adhere to that part of the navigation act which prohibited the importation of the ‘enumerated articles,’ if brought from countries other than those of which they were the produce. Such a restraint, it is hardly necessary to say, could not fail frequently to prevent speculations of trade. It interfered, likewise, to prevent the advantageous assortment of cargoes, and other commercial arrangements, as well in foreign ports as in the ports of this country; and, in this and many other ways, contributed, directly and indirectly, to diminish the employment for British shipping.—Another alteration in our navigation system has since been adopted, which certainly ought not to have been so long delayed. This alteration consists in putting the trade between Great Britain and Ireland upon the footing of a coasting trade. But these were not the only deviations from the ancient rules of our navigation system. There has grown up over the whole continent of America, a situation of affairs similar to that which the United States presented, after their separation from the mother country. This change, from a colonial to an independent existence, necessarily draws after it, in each particular case, the application of the new rule, which, as I have already stated, unavoidably grew out of the independence of the United States. The first application of that rule occurred in respect to Brazil. This principle has been extended from time to time, as new states have risen up in America. Those states were anxious to encourage their commercial marine, by granting exclusive advantages to their own shipping, and imposing certain restrictions upon that of this country. This disposition was frequently manifested by the ministers of those states; and certainly there are not wanting some

who are constantly endeavouring to excite in these new countries a jealousy of the naval power of Great Britain. Have we acquiesced in these views? Have we compromised any of the acknowledged principles of maritime law? No, sir—whilst we have explicitly refused to listen to any such compromise, we have disarmed all suspicion as to our commercial pretensions, by frankly declaring, that we sought no exclusive advantages for British ships or British trade, and that the principle of our intercourse with the new states, as with the old states of the world, would be that of a fair and equal reciprocity. This brings me to the *gravamen* of the charge made against his Majesty's government; namely, the step taken by them, in furtherance of this principle, by the introduction of a law, enabling the Crown, with the advice of the Privy Council, to remit all discriminating duties on the goods and shipping of such countries, as may agree to impose no higher charges or duties upon British ships, and the goods imported therein, than upon their own ships, and the like goods imported in such ships. If the system of discriminating duties for the encouragement of shipping were a secret known to this country alone; if a similar system were not, or could not be, put in force in every other country, I should not be standing here to vindicate the measure to which I have just referred. So long as, in fact, no independent trading community existed out of Europe, and so long as the old governments of Europe looked upon these matters as little deserving their attention, and were content, either from ignorance or indifference, not to thwart our system, it would have been wrong to disturb any part of it. But is this the present state of the world? Did not the United States of America, for the purpose of rais-

ing to themselves a great commercial marine, and of counteracting our Navigation Laws, adopt, in their utmost rigour, the rules of those laws? Can we shut our eyes to the fact, that other nations have followed, or are following, their example? Do we not see them, one after the other, taking a leaf out of our own book? Is not every government in Europe, if possessed of sea-ports, now using its utmost endeavours to force a trade, and to raise up for itself a commercial marine? Have we not boasted of our Navigation Laws, till we have taught other nations to believe, (however erroneous that belief,) that they are almost the only requisite, or, at least, the *sine quâ non*, of commercial wealth and of maritime power? Did these vauntings excite no envy, no spirit of rivalry, no countervailing opposition in other countries? Did the success of the United States of America create no desire in those countries to follow her example?—It would be worse than idle, it would be dangerous, to dissemble to ourselves the great changes which have been wrought, since the establishment of American independence, in the views and sentiments of Europe, upon all matters connected with commerce and navigation. They now occupy a leading share in the attention of almost every government. They are everywhere a subject of general inquiry and interest. In this altered state of the world, it became our duty seriously to inquire, whether a system of commercial hostility, of which the ultimate tendency is mutual prohibition, was a contest in which England was likely to gain. I will lay aside, for the moment, every consideration of a higher nature, moral or political, which would naturally lead us to look with some repugnance to the engaging in such a contest. I will equally lay aside all consideration for the in-

terest of our manufacturers, and for the general well-being of our population; and I will view the question solely in reference to the shipping interest. What are these discriminating duties, but a tax upon commerce and navigation? Will not the heaviest share of that tax fall, therefore, upon those who have the greatest amount of shipping and of trade? Before we embark in such a contest, we owe it to the character of the country, as well as to its interests, to satisfy ourselves,—first, that it is necessary for its welfare; and, secondly, that once committed to the trial with all the commercial powers of Europe, the country would have the firmness and fortitude necessary to go through with it. Do not let gentlemen too hastily decide this last point in the affirmative. Let them call to their recollection the famous orders in council;—let them, above all, bear in mind, that we have yet had but one trial of this discriminating warfare,—the trial with the United States of America,—and that we came out of that trial, after several years' perseverance, by conceding the very object, for the maintenance of which it had been carried on. Would it be politic or dignified to engage in a like struggle in Europe, with the risk of arriving at the same result? In commerce, in navigation, in naval power, and maritime pretensions, the United States are our most formidable rival; and we are now arraigned for not withholding from Prussia and Denmark, what parliament and the country, ten years ago, concurred in yielding to America!—Under what circumstances did England found her navigation system? When her commercial marine was comparatively insignificant, her wealth inconsiderable, before manufactures were established, and when she exported corn, wool, and other raw materials;—when, on the other

hand, Holland and the Netherlands were rich, possessed of great manufactures, and of the largest portion of the carrying trade of Europe and the world. What has followed? The commercial marine of the latter countries has dwindled away, and that of Great Britain is now immense. But, in the progress of the change, England is become the great seat of manufactures and trading wealth, frequently importing, and never exporting, corn; drawing raw materials from, and sending out manufactured goods to, all parts of the world. This was our state, though in a far less degree than at present, when America became independent. She started by applying towards us the system, which we had applied towards Holland. She was then poor, with a very small commercial marine, without manufactures, having corn and raw materials to export;—and we know what her shipping now is. Let us for a moment suppose that, at all hazards, we have embarked in this warfare of counteracting duties. They who recommend this policy have no right to assume that, in the progress of the struggle, the discriminating duties imposed by the foreign country (Prussia, for example) on British shipping, will not be, at least, equivalent to the like duties levied in England on Prussian shipping. The United States did not content themselves with equivalency,—they went more boldly to work;—so might any European power. If equivalent duties be established on both sides, how will they operate? Our principal exports to the north of Europe are manufactured goods and colonial produce; our imports—timber, hemp, flax, pitch, tar, (occasionally corn,) and other raw materials. The former must be sold dearer in the foreign country, the latter in this country,—by all the amount of the tax. What is this in the foreign

country, but a premium against our manufactures, in favour of the rival manufactures of other states, or of the importing state itself;—and in this country, but a tax upon raw materials requisite for carrying on our own manufactures? If the end of this warfare should be, that each country should export its own productions in its own ships, and no country import the productions of another in the ships of that other, which would be the greatest loser, the country manufacturing, or the country producing the raw materials? Indeed, I have no doubt I shall be told by some practical men that all this is theory, to which they have a short answer. That answer is, ‘We do not want anything from the Baltic.’ I believe the Baltic can do to the full as well without us as we can do without the Baltic. We import quite as much timber from Canada as can be used for the purposes for which that timber is fit. For other and more important purposes, we want timber of better and more durable qualities. Whilst I entreat the House to bear in mind the circumstances which I have already stated, in respect to the general feeling which prevails in the maritime countries of Europe and in America, I must now call their attention to the steps which had been actually taken by Prussia, (the first power, after the United States, with which we entered into a treaty upon this subject,) before the negotiation of that treaty was entertained by his Majesty’s government. I hold, sir, in my hand a report made on the 6th of August, 1822, by the British consul at Dantzic, also reports of the vice-consuls at Königsberg and Memel, to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(The first of these was read by the right hon. gentleman, and was as follows:)

Extract of a Dispatch from Mr Consul Gibson, dated Dantzic, the 6th August, 1822.

‘My Lord—I do myself the honour to transmit to your lordship a translation of the Order of Cabinet (which I have only now been able to procure) respecting an increase of the government port-charges in the Prussian ports, on vessels belonging to countries between which and Prussia no reciprocity has been fixed by treaty, or which do not otherwise treat Prussian ships and their cargoes as advantageously as their own. Prussia has made arrangements with Holland, Denmark, and America, for establishing a reciprocity in this respect, and the present regulation has evidently for its object to induce other countries, particularly Britain, to enter into a similar arrangement. At present, Prussian, Dutch, Danish, and American ships pay, as public port-charges here, about $46\frac{1}{2}$ common groshes, or about $17\frac{3}{4}d.$ sterling, per last of 4000lbs. (about 4140 lbs. English,) or about $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons British measurement; while British and other vessels pay about $77\frac{3}{4}$ common groshes, or about $29\frac{3}{4}d.$ sterling per last, making $8\frac{3}{4}d.$ sterling per ton measurement more. The advance that is to take place will make, as it will be payable in gold, at a losing valuation, viz.

	Sterling, per Ton measurement.
On ships coming in with a full cargo of goods, about	58d.
Do. with a quarter of a cargo or less	29d.
Do. going out with a full cargo	29d.
Do. with a quarter of a cargo or less	$14\frac{1}{2}d.$

Thus vessels arriving even in ballast, and taking a cargo back, will in future be burdened with about $37\frac{3}{4}d.$ sterling per ton measurement more government port-charges than Prussian ships; which, however, is not so great an advantage to the latter as

British vessels have over Prussian vessels in Britain, by paying lower port charges, light money, &c. and less duty on the cargo, if of timber—for instance, which gives the chief employment to Prussian ships. The Prussian government make this new port-charge regulation professedly from the interest created by the situation of their ship-owners, who are indeed all going to ruin.'

In such circumstances, what course did his Majesty's government take? We felt it to be our duty, in the first instance, to communicate with the Prussian minister in this country; and our minister at Berlin was, I believe, also directed to confer with the Prussian government on the subject. I myself had a conference with the Prussian minister at this court, and I well recollect the substance of his reply to me: 'You have,' he said, 'set us the example, by your port and light charges, and your discriminating duties on Prussian ships; and we have not gone beyond the limits of that example.' Against such a reply, what remonstrance could we, in fairness, make to the Prussian government? By others it may be said, 'Your duty was to retaliate, by increasing your own port-charges and discriminating duties on Prussian shipping.' I have already stated generally my reasons against the policy of this latter course. We were not prepared to begin a system of commercial hostility, which, if followed up on both sides to its legitimate consequences, could only tend to reciprocal prohibition. In this state of things, more prudently, as I contend, we entered upon an amicable negotiation with the Prussian government, upon the principle of our treaty with the United States,—that of abolishing, on both sides, all discriminating duties on the ships and

goods of the respective countries in the ports of the other. Having concluded an arrangement with Prussia upon this basis, we soon found it necessary to do the same with some other of the northern states. Similar conventions were accordingly entered into with Denmark and Sweden. Reciprocity is the foundation of all those conventions; but it is only fair to add, that they contain other stipulations for giving facility to trade, and from which the commerce of this country, I am confident, will, in the result, derive considerable advantage. —When his Majesty's government had successively made the concession of these discriminating duties to the United States, to Prussia, to Denmark, and to Sweden, I should have been ashamed of the councils of this country if we had hesitated to enter into a similar agreement with the free Hanseatic towns of Hamburgh, Bremen, and Lubeck. If we look at the present question, as connected with our maritime strength, I contend that there can be little or no danger from the arrangements which I have now described. In time of peace, it is well known, the policy of this country excludes, as much as possible, from our commercial marine the natives of all foreign countries; but, in time of war, when our native seamen are required for the king's service, we are under the necessity of admitting volunteers from other countries to man our merchant-ships. On the restoration of peace, these volunteers are, most of them, forced to seek employment again in the merchantmen of their own countries; and their return thither contributes to give increased activity to the commercial marine of those countries. If, therefore, by this system of extended reciprocity, a somewhat larger share of the carrying trade between Great Britain and these secondary states,

devolve to their shipping in time of peace, it is some consolation to know that the corresponding increase elsewhere is divided among those countries which cannot be dangerous, and are likely to be most useful to us in time of war. The timber trade with Norway has, at all times, been carried on chiefly in the ships of that country; they are so rudely constructed as to be unfit for the conveyance of almost any other article. In respect to the Prussian timber ships, they are also of a construction very inferior to the shipping of this country. We are told by most of the petitioners that they are sent to sea and navigated at less than one half the expense of British ships. If it be so, the restoration of the discriminating duty, to the repeal of which these petitioners attribute all their present difficulties, would be of little avail to protect them. It has been alleged, that the Americans build their ships upon cheaper terms than we do. This I do not believe. Timber, I admit, is cheaper in the United States, but almost every other article employed in ship-building is as dear as, and several of them dearer than, in this country. Labour likewise is dearer, and the pay of the crew full as high as, if not higher than, in England. After all, there is nothing new in the complaints now made of the increased employment of the shipping of the northern powers in their trade with this country. Similar complaints were made after the American war. The northern powers had not then complained of our existing alien charges upon their shipping; they had taken no steps to countervail those charges in their ports; but did it follow that they would continue passive, if a question then at rest had been disturbed? In my opinion, to leave the question at rest as long as possible, was the wisest

policy for this country. It was the policy pursued until the matter was taken up, not by us, but by the United States of America, and in succession by other powers. In that state of things I felt, in the course of the last session, that it would be better to make our laws upon this point square with our practice;—better, as one general rule,—first, to tender to all nations alike, and indiscriminately, equal facilities of commerce and navigation, and equal inducements to visit the ports of this country with their merchandize, either for our own consumption, or in the way of transit (*entrepôt*) to other parts of the world:—secondly, to abolish all discriminating duties affecting differently the like productions of foreign countries, and, in lieu thereof, to establish one uniform tariff for the whole:—and, thirdly, to reduce that tariff to the lowest degree, consistent, in each particular article, with the two legitimate objects of all duties,—either the collection of the necessary public revenue, or the protection requisite for the maintenance of our own internal industry." After alluding to the various concessions we had been forced to make to the United States, especially allowing their ships to trade directly between their own country and our West Indian and North American Colonies, the right honourable gentleman thus proceeded:—"Now let me ask, was it politic, was it altogether consistent with impartiality, and our friendly relations with the north of Europe, to grant to the shipping of the United States, first, in the trade between them and this country, by the treaty of 1815; and, secondly, in the trade, by this act regularly legalized, between those states and our colonies, privileges which we continued to deny to the shipping of Prussia, of Denmark, of Sweden, of Hamburgh, and of other

trading communities of Europe? Upon what principle of sound policy, were we to continue this preference exclusively to a power, towards which, God knows, I entertain no feeling of hostility;—but, when I am speaking of that nation in a British House of Commons, it is not improper to say that, in matters of navigation and naval power, there exists towards us a spirit of rivalry in the United States;—a spirit of which I do not complain, but which should incline every Englishman to doubt the wisdom of any measure tending to encourage the growth of the commercial marine of America, by giving to it privileges greater than are permitted to the shipping of other states. Shipping, like other branches of business in this country, is liable to fluctuation. Last year, for instance, the demand far exceeded the means of the British ship-owners to supply it. Such was the unbridled rage for speculation, that our tonnage could not keep pace with it, and foreign vessels were taken up in every port of Europe, because British ships could not be procured. Connecting this rage for speculation with the employment of shipping, the House will be surprised to hear in what a degree the quantity of bulky articles from foreign countries, and from our possessions in North America, in the last year, exceeded the importations of former years. In the year 1822, the total importation of timber from foreign countries was 140,715 loads—in 1825, it amounted to not less than 301,548. Of flax, in 1822, 607,143 cwts.; in 1825, 1,042,956 cwts. Of tallow, in 1822, 805,238 cwts.; in 1825, 1,164,029 cwts. Of wool, in 1822, 19,048,879 lbs.; in 1825, 43,700,553 lbs. Of linseed, in 1822, 1,411,137 bushels; in 1825, 2,876,571 bushels. From British America—of timber, in 1822, 345,741 loads; in 1825, 467,565

loads. Ashes, in 1822, 135,983 cwts.; in 1825, 210,781 cwts. Number of masts from all parts of the world, under twelve inches in diameter, in 1822, 14,484; in 1825, 19,016;—above 12 inches in diameter, in 1822, 4577 loads; in 1825, 8698 loads.—The result of all this over-trading of last year, of which I have selected only a few instances, is the depression which now prevails. We must also recollect that shipping, in common with every other mode of employing capital and industry, when it seeks a foreign market, is liable to be affected by a competition with other countries, and by acts of foreign states, over which we can have no control. As far as exclusion is within our reach—in the coasting trade—in the fisheries—in the trade between this country and our foreign possessions—we grant a strict monopoly to the British ship-owner. It is our duty to maintain and enforce that monopoly, not for his special advantage, but for the public interest: We are all agreed that our commercial marine is the foundation of our naval power, and that the maintenance of that power is the paramount duty of those who administer the affairs of this country. In an inquiry like this, therefore, the most important question is, not the detail of each separate branch of our commercial marine in any particular year, but its aggregate amount at this time, compared with the aggregate amount at some antecedent period. Now, sir, I have already stated what that amount was at the breaking out of the last war in 1793, and what it is at the present time. The comparison, taken by itself, certainly affords no ground for despondency or alarm. But we are also to bear in mind, that in 1793, both the military and commercial marine of France and Spain were much more numerous than they are

at present. The navy of Spain, once so powerful, has dwindled almost to nothing; her merchant ships have nearly disappeared from the ocean. The navy of France is less numerous and less formidable than it was at the breaking out of the revolution; and her commercial shipping, though reviving since the peace, is probably, at this moment, not more than one half of its amount in 1792. Can we forget the period when the combined fleet of the house of Bourbon was master of the British Channel—when a West India convoy was obliged to assemble at Leith, and go north about, in order to escape capture by an enemy's fleet, within sight of our principal sea-ports? Can we forget when Gibraltar, blockaded by the united naval forces of those same powers, was relieved, as it were, by stealth?—These are among the recollections which belong to the American war. How different from those which connect themselves with the war by which it was succeeded! When we began that war, in the course of which we achieved so many victories, our commercial marine was three-fifths of its present amount. Our seamen in the king's navy, 16,000, instead of 30,000, their present number. We had then no reserve of veteran seamen, receiving for former services an annual allowance from the state. We have now such a reserve, amounting to many thousands, all of whom are liable, upon an emergency, to be called upon by the Admiralty. But we are told a new and formidable power has grown up in the United States of America. I have already stated, that the maritime means of that country had been considerably benefited during the late war. But, if the commercial marine of the United States increased during that period, our own advanced in a greater amount. Since the restoration of a

general peace, the shipping of both countries has rather decreased. The diminution in that of the United States has been stated at 168,000 tons, which I believe to be fully equal to any diminution that has occurred in this country. If any hon. members entertain the opinion which exists in some quarters, that the distress under which the country now labours, is produced by the recent changes in our navigation system, and in our commercial policy, let them appoint a day for the discussion of the subject. This is the only favour I ask of them, and of those who heap abuse upon the measures in question, or who excite clamour out of doors against the individual upon whom has devolved the task, however imperfectly executed, of submitting those measures, on the part of government, for the approbation and sanction of Parliament."—Mr Huskisson concluded by moving for the returns mentioned in his speech.

Mr Baring said, that as to the shipping trade with the north of Europe, it was so much affected by our Corn Laws, that in considering it, those laws met us at every turn. The navies of the north of Europe were manned by fewer hands, who were fed on cheaper food, and paid at a lower rate of wages than ours,—circumstances which must continue as long as our Corn Laws remained.—With respect to our North American colonies, he thought that if we wished to keep them, we must give them the full benefit of their connexion with us, by opening their trade as much as possible in every direction. As to the West India colonies, the case was different. We knew that we might irritate and tease them without danger. Some of the islands, however, particularly Jamaica and Trinidad, were great depots for the trade of South America; and if we wished to

become the successful rivals of the French and Americans in that trade, we must, for the sake of our own interests, extend the benefits of free trade to our West India colonies.

Mr Robertson contended, that the foreign shipping trading to this country had increased threefold within the last four years. This increase had been occasioned by the measures pursued by the right hon. gentleman; and besides giving this superiority to foreign shipping, these measures tended to destroy our warehousing system. These same measures would have the effect also of putting into the hands of the North Americans the whole of the trade with South America, which ought to belong to our West India colonies. He did not blame the abandoning a great part of our navigation laws; but then the shipping of this country had as much right to protection as any other trade.

Sir M. W. Ridley said, that documents had been furnished to him, which placed this matter in a very different light to that in which it had been represented by the right hon. gentleman. From these documents, which contained an account of the entrance of shipping into the port of London, it appeared that there was no foreign country with which we had carried on trade, which had not doubled its amount of shipping trading to this country within the last few years. And with regard to the imports and exports, it appeared that imports from Sweden, Norway, and Russia, had been increased during the same period very considerably, whilst our exports to those countries had undergone a very great decrease. It was impossible that we could expect our shipping interests to be sufficiently protected whilst they had to contend with the difficulties and disadvantages which at present oppress-

ed them. The expense of ship-building abroad was about 7*l.* or 8*l.* per ton, whereas here it was from 16*l.* to 17*l.* A vessel from most foreign ports could be fitted out at one half the expense it could be fitted out at in England; and the wages of seamen abroad were only 20*s.* or indeed frequently only 12*s.* 6*d.* per month, whereas here they were 3*l.* 10*s.*—indeed they had been 4*l.* 10*s.*

Mr Ellice said, that all that it appeared to him to be in the power of the right hon. gentleman to do was, to reduce every tax which affected our shipping interests: and by this, and this alone, they might be enabled to compete with foreigners.

Captain Gordon, in alluding to the increased quantity of foreign shipping which had been in our ports since the passing of the reciprocity acts, took occasion to observe that he was not at all surprised at it. Foreign ships could be bought and navigated at a much less expense than our own, in consequence of our ship-builders having to send abroad for most of their materials, and also in consequence of their having to pay a greater sum for wages and provisions.

Mr T. Wilson admitted that when the freights were high last year, we were enabled to compete with the foreigner; but now that they had fallen, we were unequal to that competition.

Mr Rumbold said, that there were certain duties affecting our shipping, which, though they were of small account when considered separately, became of some importance when considered collectively. He had frequently pressed upon the House the necessity of making some reduction in pilotage.

Mr Hume thought that if the right hon. gentleman would leave out of his calculations the increase of our shipping which had taken place last year, in consequence of the specula-

tions which were then so prevalent, he would not find that there was any just ground for exultation in the existing state of it. The whole of the difficulties of our shipping interest resolved themselves into the increase of our taxation. In 1792, the amount of our ships was 16,000 ; in the present year it was 24,000. Here was an increase of 50 per cent ; but the increase of taxation was 400 per cent. He advised the right hon. gentleman not to continue the tax upon certain articles used, in ship-building, as cordage, timber, &c. which amounted to at least 10 per cent on the value of every vessel. Now a tax of 10 per cent on the hull of a vessel, was enough to make the builders direct the trade to any other country. He was convinced that unless our ship-

owners could get provisions much cheaper—unless they could reduce the rate of wages, which might easily be effected by abolishing impressment—unless they could have the duties on policies taken off, and the fees on pilotage lessened, their present sufferings must continue, and our shipping interest must be entirely ruined.—In conclusion, he regretted the outcry which had been raised against the principles on which the right hon. gentleman had been recently acting. The evils under which the shipping interest now laboured were not to be attributed to the change of system, but to the weight of taxation under which it laboured, and which alone prevented it from flourishing.

The motion was then agreed to.

CHAPTER VI.

Criminal Laws.—Court of Chancery.

This system afforded a memorable instance of Mr Peel's perseverance in those labours, (to reform the Criminal Law of England and its administration,) by which he has acquired almost boundless popularity ; and, we may safely say, immortal honour. The previous work of legislation, with respect to misdemeanours and crimes, had all along been conducted in the most slovenly manner, often without the least deliberation, and without regard to connexion between the new and old parts of the body of laws ; and hence, while the laws were so exceedingly multifarious, as not to be generally known, many of their provisions, referable to the same species, or class of offences, were perfectly discordant. Another inconvenience was, that penalties for particular offences had frequently been most incongruously introduced into, or tacked to statutes, which chiefly related to subjects of a totally different nature ; but the greatest evil, perhaps, of all was, that some statutes, from the peculiar wording of them, and the nice construction put upon that wording by the courts, did, in point of fact, create an impunity for certain offences generically the same as those which it was designed they should suppress. Closely connected with this latter evil was another, existing in the practice of the

courts, requiring a peculiar and very punctilious verbiage in the framing of indictments, much of it worse than superfluous to innocent persons when on their trial, but often affording to really guilty persons convenient loopholes by which to escape.

To remedy those evils, Mr Peel, on the 9th March, moved the House of Commons for leave to bring in two bills ; and prefaced his motion by the following admirable speech :—

“ I hope, sir, that the House is prepared to give me its attention, whilst I explain the object of those measures connected with the criminal law which I am about to submit to its consideration. To many, I fear, this subject may appear barren and uninviting. It can borrow no excitement from political feelings, nor can it awaken the hopes or fears of conflicting parties ; but it involves higher interests, it concerns the security of property—the prevention of crime—the moral habits of the people—and it prefers, therefore, a just and imperative demand on the serious attention of parliament. I claim that attention on another ground. Of all the subjects which fall within the range of our deliberations, none perhaps has been more neglected than the criminal law. *Inter arma silent leges*, is a trite remark applied to periods of civil dissension. I fear that

it might with equal justice be said, that amidst the excitement of party conflicts, the true principles which should regulate the criminal jurisprudence of the country have been too frequently disregarded. The two measures which I mean to submit to the House, are a bill for the consolidation of the statute law of England relating to the crime of theft; and a bill to improve the administration of justice in some particulars, which I will hereafter specify. And first, with respect to the bill for the consolidation of the law relating to theft. I presume that I shall not have to combat at the outset any objections to the principle of an attempt to consolidate and simplify the criminal law. It appears so conformable to the dictates of common sense, that the law, of which all men are supposed to have cognizance—and which all are bound under heavy penalties to obey, should be as precise and intelligible as it can be made—that it is almost needless to fortify by reasoning or authority, the first impressions of the understanding. If authority were required, I could cite some of the most illustrious names that have adorned the civil and judicial annals of this country, the names of lawyers and of statesmen. To one of these, the first in point of antiquity, as the first in weight and esteem, I will refer, and thus preclude the necessity of summoning other less important testimony. The Lord Chancellor Bacon submitted to King James I. a proposal for amending the laws of England. The lapse of two hundred and fifty years has increased the necessity of the measure which Lord Bacon then proposed, but it has produced no argument in favour of the principle, no objection adverse to it, which, to use the words of Cowley applied to Bacon himself, ‘from the mountain top of his exalted wit,’ he did not antici-

pate. The House will allow me to substitute for my own imperfect expressions the emphatic terms in which Lord Bacon has recorded the suggestions of a mighty intellect. In addressing his sovereign, he says that his object is not to tax the laws; ‘I speak,’ says he, ‘only by way of perfecting them, which is easiest in the best things: for that which is far amiss hardly receiveth amendment, but that which hath already, to that more may be given. Besides, what I shall propound, is not to the matter of the laws, but to the manner of their registry, expression, and tradition: so that it giveth them rather new light than any new nature.’—He proceeds to state that for the safety and convenience of the proposal which he makes, ‘it is good to consider and answer those objections or scruples which may arise or be made against this work.’ Objection the first, ‘that it is a thing needless; and that the law as it now is, is in a good estate comparable to any foreign law; and that it is not possible for the wit of man, in respect of the frailty thereof, to provide against the uncertainties and evasions or omissions of law.’ The following is the answer of Lord Bacon: ‘For the comparison with foreign laws, it is in vain to speak of it, for men will never agree about it. Our lawyers will maintain for our municipal laws—civilians, scholars, travellers will be of the other opinion.’—But, sir, I must interrupt my reference to Lord Bacon by remarking that the lapse of years has supplied us with an answer to the first part of this objection which Lord Bacon had not to urge. Foreign nations have condensed and simplified their laws, and have disintitled us to vindicate the confusion or uncertainty of our own statutes, by the boast (weak and fruitless as an argument, if it were well founded,) that those statutes are

less confused and less uncertain than the ordinances of other states. 'Certain it is,' says Lord Bacon, 'that our laws as they now stand are subject to great uncertainties, and variety of opinion, delays, and evasion.' 'Mark,' he observes, 'whether the doubts that arise are only in cases not in ordinary experience, or in cases which happen every day. If in the first only, impute it to the frailty of man's foresight, that cannot reach by law to all cases; but if in the latter, be assured there is a fault in the law. There is an inconvenience of penal laws obsolete and out of use: for that it brings a gangrene, neglect, and habit of disobedience upon other wholesome laws that are fit to be continued in practice and execution; so that our laws endure the torment of Mazentius.—The living die in the arms of the dead.'—The second objection foreseen by Lord Bacon is this:—'That it is a great innovation, and innovations are dangerous beyond foresight.' He replies, 'All purgings and medicines, either in the civil or natural body, are innovations, so as that argument is a commonplace against all noble reformations. But the truth is, that this work ought not to be termed or held for any innovation in the suspected sense. Besides, it is on the favourable part; it caseth—it presseth not—and lastly it is rather a matter of order and explanation than of alteration.'—Another objection stated by Lord Bacon, and that which is perhaps most frequently urged at present, is this:—'That it will turn the judges, counsellors of law, and students of law, to school again, and make them to seek what they shall hold and advise for law—and it will impose a new charge upon all lawyers, to furnish themselves with new books of law.' The reply is:—'For the former of these—touching the new labour, it is true it

would follow, if the law (the common law) were new moulded into a text law, for then men must be new to begin, and that is one of the reasons for which I disavow that course. But in the way that I now propound, the entire body and substance of law shall remain, only discharged of idle and unprofitable or hurtful matter, and illustrated by order and other helps towards the better understanding of it and judgment thereupon. For the latter—touching the new charge of books, it is not worthy the speaking of in a matter of so high importance—it might have been used of the new translation of the Bible and other like works.' Lord Bacon adds this brief sentence, pregnant with a truth too often disregarded—a truth of everlasting and universal application:—'Books should follow sciences, and not sciences books.' Having urged these reasons for the simplification of the statute law, he lays down the principles upon which it should be conducted. 'For the reforming and recompiling of the Statute Law, it consisteth of four parts.' The first, 'To discharge the books of those statutes, where the case by alteration of time is vanished; as Lombards, Jews, Gauls' halfpence, &c. Those may nevertheless remain in the libraries of antiquities, but no reprinting of them; the like of statutes long since expired and clearly repealed. The next is, to repeal all statutes which are sleeping and not of use, but yet snaring and in force; in some of these it will perhaps be requisite to substitute some more reasonable law, instead of them, agreeable to the time; in others a simple repeal may suffice. The third, that the grievousness of the penalty in many statutes may be mitigated, though the ordinance stands. The last is, the reducing of concurrent statutes, heaped one upon another, to one clear and

uniform law.' Such, Mr Speaker, are the reasons upon which I have undertaken the measure I shall propose, and such the principles by which I have guided myself in the preparation of it. May I not add, in the concluding words of Lord Bacon, 'this is the best way to accomplish this excellent work; of honour to your Majesty's times, and of good to all times?' I will for their satisfaction produce another authority more recent, and more practical—the authority of a committee of the House of Commons. In the year 1796, a committee was appointed to inspect and consider all the temporary laws then about to expire. This report observes, 'That a general revision of the statute law appears to have been often recommended from the throne—to have been petitioned for by both Houses of Parliament—to have engaged the labours of successive committees, and to have been undertaken by individuals under the sanction of royal and parliamentary authority, but never to have been carried forward to any degree of maturity. After the Restoration, Finch, Solicitor-General, (afterwards Lord Nottingham and Lord Chancellor,) Serjeant Meynard, Mr Robert Atkyns, Mr Prynne, and others, were appointed in 1666, to be a committee, 'to consider of repealing such statute laws as they shall find necessary to be repealed, and of reducing all statute laws of one nature, under such a method and head as may conduce to the more ready understanding and execution of such laws.' This seems to be the last recorded instance of this sort. 'And thus it is,' says the report, 'that parliament has hitherto failed to accomplish this general revision; and has now suffered it to sleep for more than a century, although the delay of it has annually augmented its necessity.' Now, sir, what I propose is, to break this sleep

of a century; of more than a century indeed, for thirty years have passed away since the report of 1796, and each successive year has added its own heavy incumbrances to the statute-book. I shall, sir, with the leave of the House, present a bill uniting into one statute all the enactments that exist, and are fit to be retained, relating to the crime of theft, and to offences immediately connected with theft; such, for instance, as the receiving of stolen property. I select the laws relating to theft in the first instance, because I consider the crime of theft to constitute the most important class of crime. By a reference to the criminal returns for England and Wales, it will be found that in the year 1825, 14,437 persons were charged with various crimes; of this number, not less than 12,500 persons were charged with the crime of theft. There were charged with burglary, 428; cattle-stealing, 42; horse-stealing, 229; stealing in a dwelling-house to the value of forty shillings, 265; from the person, 835; robbery on the person on the highway and other places, 189; sheep-stealing, 166; simple larceny, 10,087. If any other offence be taken, it will be seen that the numbers charged with that offence bear a very trifling proportion to the numbers charged with theft. In the same year were committed for the crime of arson, 22; for murder, 94; for manslaughter, 122. If a longer period be taken, the result will be nearly the same. In the last seven years there have been convictions for forgery, 331; for murder, 121; for perjury, 43; for arson, 50; while, for simple larceny alone, there have been in the same period not less than 43,000 convictions. The number of the statutes at present in force relating to this offence amounts to about 92. The number of these laws will probably create an apprehension that

the attempt to simplify their language, to classify their provisions, and to condense them into one statute, is a hopeless undertaking. But, sir, I hold in my hand the visible proof that the undertaking is not hopeless. Here is the draft of a bill, and in the short compass of thirty pages, are included all the provisions of the statute law relating to the offence of larceny. It is clear that criminal legislation has been heretofore left to the desultory and unconcerted speculations of every man who had a fancy to legislate. If an offence were committed in some corner of the land, a law sprung up to prevent the repetition, not of the species of crime to which it belonged, but of the single and specific act of which there had been reason to complain. The new enactment too was frequently stuck into the middle of a statute passed probably at the latter end of a session ; to the compounding of which, every man who saw or imagined a defect in the pre-existing law, was allowed to contribute. To give an instance or two of legislation of this kind ; some member has been injured, or he has a constituent who has been injured by, the stealing of madder roots, and a provision is forthwith made for the special protection for the future of madder roots, not by a single statute, but by including the enactments directed against the stealer of madder roots, in a law of which the following is the comprehensive title. ' An act to continue several laws therein mentioned for granting liberty to carry sugars of the growth, produce, or manufacture of any of his Majesty's sugar colonies in America, &c.' I will mention another instance of the same kind. There are not less than twenty statutes relating to the preservation of trees from theft or wilful injury. It seems to have been discovered about fifty or sixty years since, that the various laws did not

afford sufficient protection to hollies, thorns, and quicksets ; and to save the trouble of amending the former laws—these neglected shrubs were provided for in an act, which, in taking charge of them, took charge also of the other matters referred to in the following title. ' An act for the better securing the duties of customs upon certain goods removed from the outports and other places to London ; for regulating the fees of his Majesty's customs in the province of Senegambia in Africa ; for allowing to the Receiver General of the duties on offices and employments in Scotland a proper compensation ; for the better preservation of hollies, thorns, and quicksets in forests, chases, and private grounds, and of trees and underwoods in forests and chases ; and for authorizing the exportation of a limited quantity of an inferior sort of barley, called bigg, from the port of Kirkwall in the island of Orkney !' I will proceed to explain the material points in which I propose either to simplify and consolidate the law, or in which I propose to remedy what appear to be glaring defects in the law. There are on the statute book, twelve statutes relating to the offence of stolen goods. They are so numerous, because they are founded not upon any definite principle, but because they refer to individual articles of property. One statute punishes the receiver of stolen lead, iron, copper, brass, and bell-metal. Then follows a statute to punish the receiver of stolen pewter. Another refers to jewels, plate, and watches. Then comes the general act as to all goods and chattels—but even this was not considered general enough to apply to bank-notes and negotiable securities, and therefore an act was passed in the present reign, for their special protection. Now, I shall expunge from the statute book all these special provisions, and substitute in lieu of this legislation di-

rected to particulars, one simple and general enactment, founded on this plain principle, that he who receives, knowing it to have been stolen, anything whatever, the stealing of which amounts by law to a felony, shall himself be deemed guilty of felony. I come now to a subject of at least equal importance: the supplying of those omissions in the law which ensure the impunity of guilt. Of those omissions I will give some examples. Under the law as it stands at present, it has been decided that it is not an offence to rob a ready-furnished house, notwithstanding that it is a very serious offence to rob a ready-furnished lodging. It is upon record, that after the conviction of a man who robbed of some articles of plate the house which he had hired, the sentence was respited, upon a doubt whether the case were within the statute, which rises the word lodging, and not lodging-house. It was agreed by all the judges that the case was not within the statute, and Chief Baron M'Donald ordered the prisoner to be discharged, saying, 'I am sorry the laws of England have not provided for your case, for I have no doubt whatever of your guilt.' Again, the statute which makes it an offence to steal or destroy fish in streams, expressly refers to such streams as pass in or through an estate. If the stream passes between two estates, the owner of the fish forfeits his protection under the statute. Can any man doubt that these are examples of imperfection and omission in the law, which can and ought to be supplied? Can any man doubt that it is expedient to extend, as I propose to extend, the protection which the law at present gives to securities for property in the British funds, to securities for property in the funds of foreign states, and to mercantile instruments of all kinds, entitling the holder to payment of money abroad?

Is it fitting that these securities and instruments should be liable to be stolen with impunity? The law with respect to a very frequent and very aggravated offence, the embezzlement by servants of their masters' property, is at present very defective. Among the principal defects are these: It is necessary to state in the indictment, and to prove in evidence, the embezzlement of specific monies, not merely of the sum in the gross of which the master may have been defrauded, but of the particular coin or notes of which that sum consisted, which may have entirely escaped the recollection of the master. Again, if the servant has defrauded his master by the means of receiving change, he cannot be convicted at all. Supposing, for instance, the servant, having ten shillings to receive for his master, gives ten shillings to the party from whom the money is due, and receives a one-pound note, which he embezzles, he commits no offence against the law. The prosecution therefore often fails from the impossibility of laying the whole case, the whole tissue of fraud before the jury. I propose to make the crime a misdemeanour, instead of a felony, and thus to admit the proof of the whole series of embezzlement, in which he may have been engaged. I propose to extend the grasp of the law, but in no instance do I increase, in some, I mitigate its severity. I will mention two important examples of the abatement of penalty. The law which makes it an offence punishable with death to steal in a dwelling-house to the amount of forty shillings, extends at present to all out-houses within the curtilage, as it is called. It is intended to except for the future from the operation of this law, so far as regards capital punishment, the stealing in all out-houses which are not connected with the dwelling-house by some internal communication. Another case in which it is

proposed to reduce the penalties of the law, arises out of an act of the last session of parliament, which makes the robbery of gardens, without any distinction of circumstances, a transportable felony. The severity of the penalty renders this law in many instances inoperative. We shall give more effectual protection to the owner of this species of property, if, while we retain the severer penalties for all cases of aggravated delinquency, we empower a magistrate to hear the complaint, and if he shall think fit, to dismiss the offender for the first offence on payment of a reasonable fine. I will now proceed to explain the outline of the other, and not less important bill, which is intended to effect improvements in the administration of the penal law generally. It is impossible, sir, to contemplate without painful reflections, the state of this country with respect to the number and the increase of criminal offences. In the seven years, ending December 1816, there were committed to the several gaols in England and Wales 47,522 persons charged with criminal offences. In the seven years, ending December 1825, the number was nearly double, amounting to 93,718. In the former period there were 29,361 convictions. In the latter 63,418. In the former period there were sentenced to death 4126 persons. In the latter 7770. In the former period 536 persons were executed. In the latter period 579; being an immense reduction, let it be observed, in the number of executions as compared with capital convictions. It is a circumstance worthy of remark, that there has been by no means a corresponding increase in the number of criminal offenders in London and Middlesex. Taking the more serious offences, we shall find that in London and Middlesex 1018 persons received sentence

of death in the seven years ending December 1816. In the seven years ending December 1825, 1124. The total number of convictions generally in the first period was 7421. In the latter period 11,624. In seven years, ending with December 1793, there were in London and Middlesex 272 persons executed. In the same period, ending with December 1825, there were 165. In two years alone, 1786 and 1787, there were 138 executions for offences committed in London and Middlesex. In the three last years there were only 39. From the year 1810 to the year 1822, inclusive, there were 173 executions in England and Wales, for robbery on the highway; being at the rate of about fourteen in each year. In 1823, there were five executions for this offence. In 1824, six. In 1825, six. For the seven years preceding 1823, the number of convictions for the last offence, were at the rate of 140 in each year. In the last three years they have not exceeded on the average 110. From the year 1810 to the year 1822, inclusive, there were 260 convictions in England and Wales for murder, being at the rate of twenty in each year. In the year 1823, there were twelve convictions for murder; in 1824, seventeen; in 1825, twelve. I trust, therefore, that although there has been so great an increase in late years in the total amount of committals for crime, I am warranted in the inference that crimes of the deepest die are less frequent than they formerly were, and that they are gradually decreasing in number. With respect to the fact, that crime has not increased in London and Middlesex, in the same proportion in which it has increased in every other district of England, I cannot but think that the cause of this is chiefly to be looked for in the efficiency of the police establishment. This bill will regulate

in some respects the proceedings connected with the administration of the law. It will re-enact, and more clearly define the duty of the coroner as to taking evidence upon an inquisition of manslaughter or murder—the binding by recognizance—and the certifying of the evidence, the recognizances, and the inquisition, to the court before which the trial is to be. In respect to the magistrate—it will define what is generally understood to be the law as to the power of admitting to bail. It will make it obligatory on the magistrate to take the examinations upon which a prisoner is either committed to prison, or admitted to bail, in the actual presence of the prisoner himself. It will extend this obligation to cases of misdemeanour. It will extend to subsequent and to future acts the principle of an act of King William, which places the felon in the same situation as to the consequences of his guilt, whether that guilt be proved by evidence—or confessed by himself—or admitted by his standing willfully mute—or by his suffering outlawry. This bill will extend to accessories to felony after the fact, the principle of the existing law, which makes accessories before the fact triable, either in the county in which the principal felony was committed, or in the county in which the offence of becoming an accessory was committed. By this bill a discretionary power will be given to the judges of assize and to the court of Quarter-sessions to award to the prosecutor, in certain cases of misdemeanour, the actual expenses incurred by him. I am fully sensible that this power ought to be strictly defined and controlled. It ought not to extend to cases of assault; and it might probably be expedient to limit it to prosecutions for those offences to which the punishment of hard labour can be by law attached. Take the

case of gross abuse of authority, or gross neglect of duty, by some public officer, amounting to misdemeanour, can we expect that private individuals will take upon themselves the invidious duty of lodging the complaint, the painful task of arranging the proofs, and finally, the whole costs of prosecution, and all this out of a pure abstract love of justice and tender care for the public interest? It is ridiculous to expect it: to withhold public aid from the prosecutor in such instances as these, amounts to the frequent denial of all reparation to the poor man, and to the impunity of great offenders. I would have a public prosecutor acting in each case on principle, and not on the heated and vindictive feelings of the individual sufferer on which we mainly rely at present for the due execution of justice. I would therefore make the prosecution of these public wrongs much more a matter of public concern than it is at present. In Scotland, crimes are prosecuted in this manner through the agency of a public officer, responsible for the justice and propriety of the prosecution when undertaken at the public charge, and for the conduct of it through its various stages. The public prosecutor in Scotland has another power devolved upon him—the exercise of which is frequently of the utmost advantage. In the prosecution of a crime, to which the penalty of death is attached by law, he is enabled to restrict the sentence in case of conviction to a punishment short of death, thus empowering the jury to find a verdict of guilty with a perfect assurance that the death of the prisoner cannot be the consequence of that verdict. Whether such a power can be safely and properly transferred to the institutions of our own country, I am not now prepared to give an opinion. Of this, however,

I am confident, that if it should be found possible to borrow from the laws of Scotland suggestions for the improvement of our own law, no Englishman would be found to decry the adoption of such suggestions as the badges of disgrace to the country for whose benefit they were intended. In the detail of the chief provisions of this bill, I have reserved for the last, that alteration in the existing law to which I attach the greatest importance. It appears to me, sir, that when a prisoner charged with a heinous crime, and proved to be guilty on clear evidence, escapes the penalty of the law upon some technical quibble, or in consequence of some omission of useless forms, a grievous injury is done to society. Not only is justice defeated in the particular case, but the law is discredited, and the numerous class that speculates keenly on the advantages to be derived from crime, compared with the risk of its punishment, sees in every instance of undeserved impunity a fresh encouragement to the adventure. That law, I apprehend, to be most perfect, which most certainly ensures the conviction of the guilty man, and the acquittal of him who has been unjustly accused. I ought to add as a qualification, that the law ought to ensure that conviction and acquittal upon principles not capable of being misapplied and perverted. There are, for instance, provisions in the criminal law of France, calculated no doubt in individual instances to elicit truth, but which I should never wish to see ingrafted on the practice of this country. If any one will review the grounds upon which great offenders, of whose guilt there could not be a question, have escaped punishment, he cannot rise from that review without lamenting such melancholy triumphs of legal forms over substantial justice. Ought the murderer to

have all the benefit of acquittal, because the murdered man had three Christian names, and only two of them are set forth in the indictment? or because the wound which caused his death is not described with entire accuracy? Surely we may rely on the dictates of common sense, and be assured that these things are not perfections in the law. But if I am called upon for professional authority, I will cite the beautiful expressions of Sir Matthew Hale, and let them stand as the fitting preamble to the enactment I propose. In the history of the Pleas of the Crown, Sir Matthew Hale concludes the chapter on the forms of indictment with these memorable remarks:—‘ And thus far, touching the forms of indictment, wherein generally we are to take notice that in favour of life great strictness has been in all times required in points of indictments; and the truth is, that it is grown to be a blemish and inconvenience in the law, and the administration thereof; more offenders escape by the over-easy ear given to exceptions in indictments, than by their own innocence, and many times gross murders, burglaries, robberies, and other heinous and crying offences, escape by these unseemly niceties, to the reproach of the law, to the shame of the government, and to the encouragement of villainy, and to the dishonour of God. And it were very fit, that by some law this overgrown curiosity and nicety were reformed, which is now become the disease of the law, and will, I fear, in time grow mortal, without some timely remedy.’ I shall propose to limit the enactment, at least for the present, to a specification of those defects which shall not (as at present they do) vitiate an indictment after verdict, or after confession or default. I have now detailed the objects of the two measures which I propose to in-

introduce. They may not perhaps answer the expectations of some who call out for the immediate and simultaneous revision of the whole of the criminal law. To those I answer, in the first place, that they are little aware of the difficulties of far less extensive projects, of the labour, and caution, and judgment, which are requisite in every step of such an undertaking as that to which the present motion refers. In the second place, I answer, that nothing would be more unwise than to force on the country, in too rapid succession, these alterations in the law. It cannot, I think, be justly said, that of late years at least, the march of amendment in the law has been too slow. During the four years that I have held the appointment which I now hold, the following measures have been carried through parliament:—The whole of the statute law relating to prisons and prison-discipline, has been, after deliberate inquiries, commenced by my predecessor, (Lord Sidmouth,) consolidated and amended. The severity of the criminal law has been mitigated by extending the benefit of clergy to many offences that, before, were capital felonies; and one great objection to that severity has been altogether removed, by enabling the judges to abstain from passing sentence of death in every case, excepting that of murder. The laws relating to the punishment of transportation, have been revised and collected into one statute. The laws relating to the effect of pardons from the crown, and to the rights of convicts after pardon, and after the fulfilment of their sentence, have been placed upon just principles. The abuses that grew out of the practice that prevailed with regard to writs of error, have been corrected. And, lastly:—the jury act, comprising the regulations that were previously dispersed

in sixty-six acts of parliament, which now no longer encumber the statute book, has been passed, and has, I have every reason to believe, materially improved the constitution of juries. I should be open to the charge of presumption, if, in presenting these bills to the House, I were offering my own crude speculations, unaided by the learning and experience of professional men. No, sir; it has been my good fortune to profit by the willing assistance of men who yield to none in respect to general acquirements, to profound knowledge of the principles of law, or to experience in its practice." The right hon. gentleman concluded his speech, amidst the acclamations of the House, with moving, "That leave be given to bring in a bill to consolidate and amend the laws relative to larceny, and to such offences of stealing, and embezzling, and of receiving stolen property, as are cognizable in England." Also, "a bill for amending the laws relating to felonies, to the trial and punishment of accessories, and the expenses of prosecutions and of the apprehension of offenders, and to the taking of examinations, informations, bailments, and recognizances, and returning the same to the proper tribunals in England."

Mr Calvert had never listened to a speech in that house which gave him more satisfaction than that of the right hon. gentleman. But he thought the system, with regard to the punishment of offences, required correction. If a man did not commit a capital crime, he might continue to offend, going to prison and coming out thence worse than he went in.

Mr Lockhart remarked that great advantage would accrue to the country from the introduction of a protective police. As it appeared from the statement of the right hon. secretary, that crime had increased in the coun-

try two-fold, and had not increased in the metropolis, the non-increase must, in his opinion, be attributed to the police system, and it ought, therefore, to be extended to the country.

Mr J. Abercrombie entirely concurred in the tribute of respect which had been paid to the speech of the right hon. gentleman. He wished to express his great satisfaction at having lived to see the day when a minister of the crown had risen in his place to declare his opinion that the criminal law of the realm needed revision. Many members must recollect the difficulties which a friend of his (Sir S. Romilly) had to encounter when he endeavoured to alter the criminal law. He had been told that it was presumption to attempt it. Upon the suggestion of that distinguished person, the House did, indeed, recognize the principle that promptitude and certainty were essential requisities in punishment.—The hon. member sat down by declaring, that he attributed the great proportion of the increase of crime, which was observable in the agricultural districts, to the operation of the game laws.

Sir J. Sebright concurred with his hon. friend (Mr Abercrombie) in his opinion of the game laws. He believed that a great mass of the crime of every description had its origin in the violation of those statutes.

Mr Sykes returned thanks to the right hon. gentleman for his measure generally; and particularly for that part of it which repealed the law under which it was felony to steal an apple. An act which had probably been committed by every member of that House ought not to be punished, in any man, with such a degree of severity.

Mr Estcourt thought that it was a mistake to attribute the increase of crime in the country to the operation of the game laws; he rather looked for the cause of that increase in the

poverty and privation with was endured by the lower classes.

Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

On Monday, April 17, on the motion of Mr Peel, the House went into a committee on the Criminal Justice bill, when its different clauses were unanimously agreed to.

On the clause being moved that all felonies, without benefit of clergy, should be ousted of that benefit under all circumstances consequent on the indictment,

Mr Hume said, that the right hon. gentleman, whilst he was improving the criminal law, would be doing a great benefit if he were to do away with the distinction as to the benefit of clergy altogether; indeed, the meaning of this term was far from being generally understood.

Mr Peel said, that it was his intention to attempt the consolidation of the whole criminal law; that next session he purposed to consolidate the statutes relating to injuries of the person, coining, and forgery, and that till a great progress had been made in this consolidation, it would be difficult to adopt the suggestion of the hon. member, inasmuch as the doing away with the benefit of clergy now would have the effect of making a great number of offences capital which were not so at present.—The clause was then agreed to.

Mr Peel next moved the order of the day for the further consideration of the Larceny Laws bill, and after intimating that he might think it expedient not to pass the bill through the House this session, but to suffer it to stand over for consideration, in its amended state, till the next session of parliament, stated to the House two or three of the alterations which he desired to make.

The report was received, and order-

ed to be further discussed on that day se'ennight.

In the House of Lords, May 9, on the Earl of Liverpool having, in moving for its commitment, described the heads of the Criminal Justice bill, the bill was committed, some amendments were made, and the report brought up.

On Thursday, May 18, the Earl of Liverpool having moved the third reading of this bill,

The Earl of Malmesbury not only had no objection to the principle of the bill, but highly approved of it, and was of opinion that the name of the framer of this and other bills of a similar kind would descend with distinction to posterity, while the memory of the political economists would be buried in oblivion. But he wished to bring under the notice of the House a clause which maintained a practice that appeared to him to be founded on partiality and injustice. This bill allowed expenses to poor prosecutors, which, indeed, was the old law with respect to cases of felony. The hardship of such a measure would evidently appear, by considering the burden which the county-rate already imposed.

The Earl of Liverpool, with respect to the principle of the clause to which the noble lord had referred, observed, that it had not been adopted without due consideration, and communication with persons interested in its operation. All charges were not thrown by the bill on the county-rates, but in special cases power was given to the judges to award certain expenses. The burden had always been borne by the county-rate in cases of felony; but whether the whole mode of conducting this business might not be placed on a different footing, was a question which he considered open to discussion. It would

be a fit question for their lordships' consideration, whether the law of Scotland should not be followed, and the law officers of the Crown made public prosecutors.

The bill was then read a third time, and passed.

We, in Scotland, although here too the law's delay is complained of, cannot reconcile with our reason the tenacious adherence to a practice so fraught with misery and ruin to suitors as that of the Court of Chancery. That practice, however, is not without its defenders in England; but even there, notwithstanding the national tenacity of ancient observances and forms, the abuses in Chancery had attained to such a height as to produce a very general desire to see them corrected or abated. The enormous amount of sequestered money, an amount constantly increasing in that court, was itself demonstrative proof that its practice was rotten and vicious; and much better calculated for the infliction of wrongs than the redress of them.

A number of petitions were presented to the House of Commons, detailing instances of extreme hardship to suitors, arising from the expense, delays, and arbitrary powers of the Court of Chancery. Much ingenuity was displayed by the crown lawyers in repelling these desultory attacks; but they who conducted them had one great advantage in the eloquence of facts; and it was obvious to all but lawyers, that were the statements made true to only a tenth of their extent, some very material reformation of the court had become not merely expedient, but, for the honour of the nation, indispensably necessary.

It had long been observed with regret, and a feeling even still more painful, that not only had the Lord Chancellor exerted the whole of his

powerful influence to prevent any parliamentary inquiry into the practice of Chancery, but that he had made no endeavour to correct, by his own authority, or even to suggest a remedy for any of the evils, the existence of which was acknowledged. This resistance to all change by others, and disinclination towards any change by himself, appeared to the public as the sullen doggedness of mortified pride; a haughty indifference to public opinion, and a revolting heartlessness, as respects the interests of such as were, or might become, suitors in the court over which he presided.

Much had been gained the previous session by the appointment of a royal commission to inquire into the practice of Chancery, which commission had produced a very voluminous report. In that report, the Attorney-General, on May 18, moved the House of Commons for leave to bring in a bill, the provisions of which were to embody the various improvements recommended by the commission. The learned gentleman, after noticing a number of objections that had been made to the commission, proceeded to remark that he had heard it said out of the House, and insinuated within it, that the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery ought to be abolished. He had heard it insinuated—nay more, boldly stated—that this jurisdiction was not founded on common law, was supported by no statutory enactments, was prejudicial, and ought, therefore, to be got rid of. He would take the liberty of pointing out some of the principal objects of this jurisdiction. Every person who knew anything of law, must be aware that almost all the real property in the country was vested in trustees for a variety of purposes, and a great deal of the personal property was in the same situation. Was it not necessary that a jurisdiction

should exist somewhere for the purpose of enforcing the fulfilment of those trusts? But there was no jurisdiction over these trusts in the common law. The jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery, with respect to injunctions of every description, was highly necessary. In the case of the infringement of a copyright, for instance, the common law provided no adequate remedy. There was no means of checking it, except by the intervention of the Court of Chancery. In another class of cases touching the specific performance of contracts, the common law had no jurisdiction. A court of common law could merely give damages for the breaking of the contract; but they could not compel its specific performance. In another class of cases of great importance in a commercial country—namely, cases of accounts between parties—the common law courts possessed no adequate jurisdiction. Another class of cases, in which the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery was eminently useful, was that of fraudulent transactions. The jurisdiction being admitted to be essential, it was clear that it must either be exercised by a separate tribunal, or engrafted on the common law. There were some persons who contended that a separate jurisdiction was inexpedient, and said that if the jurisdiction were united with that of a court of law the system would work better. He totally differed from the persons who entertained that opinion. The inconvenience resulting from the union of the two jurisdictions in the Court of Exchequer had been found so great that a learned gentleman accustomed to vote on the other side of the House, some years back brought in a bill, which was passed, to separate the two jurisdictions—not entirely, but substantially. In consequence of that bill, the equity jurisdiction of the Court of Exchequer was now discharged by the Chief Baron

exclusively, in one court, whilst the legal jurisdiction was administered in another by the rest of the judges. The next question was, could any essential change be effected in the machinery by which the jurisdiction was administered? The first subject to which the commissioners had directed their attention was the subpoena. It was objected that the form of the subpoena was such that an unlettered man could not make himself acquainted with its object. This was an important objection, and accordingly the commissioners altered the form of the subpoena, so as to make it quite evident to the party upon whom it was served what it was the court required him to do. The next step in the case was to compel the defendant to put in an answer to the plaintiff's bill. It was evident that much of this machinery was unnecessary, and the commissioners, therefore, thought it proper to inquire how far the time which a defendant was allowed for putting in an answer could be shortened. The commissioners, after having considered the subject with great care and attention, recommended that a defendant should, after appearance, be allowed eight weeks to answer in a town cause, and ten weeks in a country cause, and that if he did not answer within that time, the bill should be taken *pro confesso*. Suppose, however, that the defendant put in his answer. It might be evasive. It was essentially necessary that the plaintiff should have the power of compelling a clear and specific answer to the questions which he proposed. The commissioners had bestowed the most anxious attention on the subject, and their opinion was, that the decision of the master should be final, unless he himself chose to refer the question to a higher authority. It sometimes happened, that after an answer was put in, the plaintiff found the answer to be completely decisive as to the merits of

the case, and was satisfied that he could not proceed farther. After the cause was thus substantially at an end, the bill could not be dismissed for three-quarters of a year. This was not all. The plaintiff might then, by taking advantage of a mere form, prevent the bill from being dismissed for three-quarters of a year longer. This was a practice which called for remedy. The commissioners had in consequence recommended, that if a plaintiff did not undertake to speed the cause within the first term after the answer was put in, the bill should be dismissed. But, almost in the last stage of a suit, when delay after delay had taken place, and when the party was on the eve of being dismissed, all he had to say was, "I am advised to amend;" and, on the payment of nominal costs, the case had to begin *de novo*, and all the former procedure was renewed. This could be repeated; he had the same power in every stage; he had only to say, "I wish to amend." The commissioners had therefore said "You shall not amend after a particular stage, and not more than once." Another and a most important check suggested by the commissioners was the payment of costs. By the present course the evidence was taken before the examiners by interrogatories, not *vivâ voce*, as in a court of law; and it formed a very important subject of consideration for the commissioners, whether this practice should be continued or not. After reading the evidence taken before the commissioners, he was convinced that no advantage would be gained by a change in the mode of taking evidence in that court, but, on the contrary, great injury. He believed that there were several persons who had entered upon the inquiry with the same prejudices upon this point as himself, and who, in the progress of the inquiry, had arrived at

the same conclusion as he had. Everybody must be aware that great delays existed in the master's office. Under the present system the master was passive; the solicitors managed the case; and there was every inducement for delay on the part of the solicitors. When, therefore, the cause was known, the remedy was easy. If the master was passive, all that could be done was to arm him with authority, and enable him to act. It was also proposed, in such a case, to take the agency from the party in delay, and let the other be the actor. Let the masters be invested with these powers—let them attend to their duty well and faithfully, and delay in the master's office would no longer be a subject of complaint. He now came to the consideration of a most important point—of what use was expedition in the progress of a cause, unless there was an expeditious decision? This point had not escaped the commissioners. Before he inquired into the extent of the evil, he would mention the remedy they had prescribed. With respect to appeals,—according to the present practice, on the hearing of an appeal from the Vice-Chancellor before the Lord Chancellor, new matter was introduced; although, from the very nature of an appeal, it ought to be decided on the old facts; instead of which, a cloud of new affidavits was introduced before the Lord Chancellor, who, in fact, decided on a new cause. Nothing was more unjust to the character of an inferior judge than this proceeding. The commissioners had recommended that there should be no appeal allowed, except on a consideration of the same facts. The effect of this regulation would be to diminish the number of appeals; for it was owing to the admission of new facts that appeals had so much increased. There was another measure of considerable

consequence recommended by the commissioners. The measure to which he referred was the limitation of the number of counsel to speak in a cause. The time which would be thus saved was evident. In page 96 of the report, Mr Hamilton was asked, "How many counsel, to the best of your knowledge, were heard on each side?" He replied, "I think I counted seven on one, and five or six on the other; and there were as many in a case arising under Howard and Gibb's bankruptcy." In another part of the evidence it was said, "There were seven or eight counsel in that cause: each of them spoke at great length." The Lord Chancellor made it a rule to read all the affidavits in a cause; and in the case of "Senior against Smith," there were eight counsel and ninety-six affidavits. If the commissioners, however, had made a regulation prejudicial to the junior members of the bar, they had recommended another which was advantageous to them. Formerly, it was the practice in the Court of King's Bench for the senior counsel to proceed with his motions, and then the next; and it often happened that a junior counsel had no opportunity to move during the whole term. This very practice existed at the present day in the Court of Chancery; although, in the time of Lord Mansfield, this practice was altered in the Court of King's Bench. It was intended that the same alteration should now be made in Chancery. The commissioners had also proposed, that no person should be allowed to prosecute an appeal, except on a certificate of counsel, pledging himself that the application was fit and proper to be made to the Lord Chancellor. The necessary regard which every man had for his own reputation would become a sure protection, under such an arrangement, against the prosecution of appeals in any cases where sub-

stantial grounds did not exist for finding fault with the original decision. He now came to a part of the subject upon which greater difference of opinion might exist,—the management of proceedings in cases of bankruptcy. The measure which was recommended by the commissioners had two objects,—the first, to lessen the number of bankruptcy cases brought before the Lord Chancellor; and the second, to facilitate the decision of such cases as should still continue to be brought before him. Now what was proposed was, that, in the first instance, a certain number of commissioners should be elected, who should be the first judges applied to in all cases of bankruptcy. These commissioners were to form a court, which should decide, not upon affidavit, but by witnesses examined *viva voce* before it upon all disputed facts, in cases of bankruptcy; and after their decision, each party was to have a right to appeal to the Lord Chancellor. In addition to the measures already detailed, it was intended to relieve the Lord Chancellor from his jurisdiction in cases of *habeas corpus*. With respect to what were called the arrears of the Court of Chancery, it was scarcely conceivable what a mass of misrepresentation had gone forth. With respect to the Vice-Chancellor's Court, in which all causes were first heard upon petitions, the arrear of business was very small indeed. Substantially, there was no occasion to provide for any arrear of business in the Court of the Vice-Chancellor. The portion of the Lord Chancellor's business which the House would now have to look to, lay in the rehearings and appeals. The fact was, that in the month of January last, the total amount of causes in arrears had been 109. How little that arrear of business had been increased within the last few years might be gathered from the fact, that, by the return ordered in

the year 1822, the arrear of causes then stood at 105. The question then was—how should this arrear be got rid of? It was easily answered. The Vice-Chancellor's court needed no alteration at all; and all that was to be done was wanted only for the court of the Lord Chancellor. In that court, then, every thing which went to save time would tend to reduce the arrear (which was not increasing); but it was hoped that the measures recommended by the commission—which diminished the number of counsel allowed to be heard—limited the quantity of business to be done in the court, and simplified that which was actually transacted—it was hoped that, subject to the operation of these measures, the existing arrear of 109 causes would soon entirely disappear. Having pointed out, as briefly as he might, the modes by which it was proposed both to diminish and facilitate the details of business in the Court of Chancery, he (the Attorney-General) had little more to add beyond a hope that the House would feel that the commission had done its duty. The learned gentleman concluded his speech by pronouncing a high eulogium upon the industry and talents of the Lord Chancellor; and by moving “for leave to bring in a bill to carry into effect the measures recommended by the late commission upon the practice of the Court of Chancery.”

Mr John Williams observed that the report would do good, no doubt, as far as it went. The only question was, whether it went far enough; and upon that point he was compelled to say he thought not. What was to be effected by this bill which might not have been done 25 years ago by the simple interposition of the authority of the noble lord at the head of the court himself? He spoke now upon the best authority—the best evidence, that of Mr Bell and Master Stratford. With re-

ference to the report itself, it did not appear that it had by any means been generally assented to by the commission; and it was not so much as signed by Lord Redesdale. As to the remedies which were recommended by the commissioners' report, it was much doubted by the members of the profession whether, if carried into effect, they would produce any benefit. It had been stated by the Attorney-General, that the commission had afforded every facility to inquiry. But neither the solicitors, nor the metropolitan law societies, were applied to or consulted. Solicitors were not duly represented in that commission. Judges were well represented, and learned gentlemen with stuff gowns, and with silk gowns, and the masters and officers of the court, were all duly represented, but not a single solicitor had a voice in the commission. The reason implied, if not assigned for this exclusion, might be found in the 23d page of the report, where it was said that the delays in Chancery were to be mainly attributed to the solicitors. He (Mr Williams) did not believe one word of that charge. With what show of truth or consistency could it be maintained, that solicitors were the cause of delays in Chancery, when their dearest interest lay the other way? With respect to the subject of injunctions, the report had stated nothing satisfactory on that head. When a plaintiff at common law had obtained judgment and a writ of execution by a process which certainly could not be esteemed too short, he was often stopped by an injunction, and subjected to the vexatious delays of the Court of Chancery. Having tried and succeeded in his cause in a court of common law, he had to go over the whole ground again, in a court ignorant of the merits of the previous proceedings, and acting on different rules of justice. Upon that point the report did not touch.

On the subject of contempts, also, the report was silent. He remembered that his honourable friend (Mr Hume) had some weeks since presented a petition from a man of the name of Richardson, who stated, that it was not his fault that he was held in contempt and imprisoned for the same. In the discussion to which that petition had given rise, it had been stated, that a child was also a prisoner with its father; and he remembered very well that the right hon. Secretary (Canning) expressed his surprise at that assertion, and said that it was quite impossible that any such circumstance could have happened. He had, therefore, taken the trouble of writing to the Governor of York Castle, the prison in which Richardson was confined. A reply had been forwarded to him, verifying the truth of the statement in every particular. The terms of the commitment ran thus—"Here-with, by virtue of a writ, I command you, in the name of his Majesty, to take charge of the bodies of James Richardson and his boy, and that you receive them into your safe keeping, there to answer to his said Majesty, for contempt to the High Court of Chancery." This was the system that was without reproach—the immaculate, unerring Court of Chancery! There was another subject which the commission had touched upon with a degree of gentleness that was truly edifying—he meant the subject of conveyancing. He would now come to the most important points which the commission had overlooked in their report. Had the commissioners taken pains to examine into the abuses which arose during the progress of a suit? Did they not know, in cases of appeals, that five or six years had elapsed from the time of setting down for a hearing until the hearing actually took place? In the case of "The Attor-

ney-General against Brooke," six years elapsed from the setting down to the hearing; and the case of "The Attorney-General against Brown and De Tastet," it was nine years from the setting down to the hearing. In cases of motions, some of them had occupied two or three years before they were disposed of. Mr Basil Montague, the commissioner of bankrupts, had given three instances of prolonged cases of bankruptcy. It appeared that they severally occupied nine, eight, and seven years, up to the year 1824, and in 1825 two cases out of the three still stood upon the paper. He himself knew of a case in which 1000*l.* had been expended upon attendances to obtain judgment. A case of a singular nature had lately reached his knowledge. The learned gentleman detailed a number of cases of extraordinary and ruinous delay; among which was the following:—The suit was commenced in 1814. Before the Vice-Chancellor a demand was established by the plaintiff, Mr Welling, against the estate of the defendant, who was represented by a woman named Kinnersley, who was formerly in partnership with him. An appeal was made from the Vice-Chancellor, and from 1819 to the close of 1824, the cause stood sometimes at the top and sometimes at the bottom of the Lord Chancellor's paper, where it still remained without having been heard at all. In July 1825, one of the parties wrote to the Lord Chancellor, requesting his lordship to give judgment. The answer he received from the Lord Chancellor was, that he would that month state his opinion on the case, and hand down to the register the minutes of a decree. In the November following, Mr Welling, the plaintiff, who was a partner in the Ludlow Bank, and to whom \$2,000*l.*, the sum at issue, was at that time of

great importance, went personally into the Court of Chancery, and addressed the Lord Chancellor, complaining of the delays and disappointments he had suffered, and begging that his suit might be speedily terminated, for which nothing was requisite but his lordship's decision. He stated that he was upwards of 70 years of age, and that, at his time of life, having 17 children and 27 grand-children, he was desirous of being able to close his affairs. The Lord Chancellor, after some reflection, remarked, that he had given judgment in that case six months before. The register was applied to, but it appeared that the minutes of the decree had not been written; and they were not written yet. The mischief, unfortunately, did not end there. Mr Welling was, as he (Mr Williams) had stated, a partner in a country bank. In March last, a run took place upon the bank; the 32,000*l.* in Chancery might have saved it from ruin, but it fell for want of support, and the old man became a bankrupt. What effect, the learned gentleman asked, had these delays in increasing the expenses of this court? Let the House refer again to the evidence of the member for Malmesbury (Mr Leake). He stated that, as solicitor, his bill for costs alone amounted, in one case, to 1000*l.*; in another to 1000*l.*; in a third, to 1500*l.*; in a fourth, including the common law costs, to 12,000*l.* This part of the inquiry was not gone into by the commissioners, though it was obviously essential to the due consideration of the general question. It was incumbent on somebody, he (Mr Williams) maintained, to originate some measure to carry off this great and crying evil of everlasting and ruinous delay.

The Solicitor-General defended the report of the commissioners, and the

measure before the House, at considerable length.

Mr M. A. Taylor would admit that that report did possess some merit, but it had fallen far short of the object which it ought to have effected, and it had left very much undone which it ought to have performed. He wished the House to look to the evidence of Mr Shadwell, a most able Chancery barrister. When this gentleman was asked by the commissioners whether he considered the judges of the Court competent to get through the business of it, his reply was, that he was persuaded three angels could not do it. Yet the Commissioners had entirely passed this matter over. They ought to have recommended the separation of the bankruptcy business from the great seal. The Court of Chancery ought also to be a court entirely independent of political power or principles.

Mr Peel said the object of his learned friend (the Attorney-General) was merely to get the bill printed, in order that a full opportunity of considering its principles might be afforded before next session. This was not the precise time for discussing those principles. The right hon. gentleman, after replying to the arguments of Mr M. A. Taylor, proceeded to remark upon the charge which had been made against the Lord Chancellor in respect of the delay of his decisions. The evidence to which he wished to call the attention of the House was that of a gentleman who possessed a very high character for talent (Mr Basil Montagu), an unprejudiced witness, who said, "There are delays in the judgments which the Lord Chancellor is called upon to give. I cannot deny it; but I impute them to three distinct circumstances: The first is, that the Lord Chancellor takes a different view from that taken by his predecessors of his duties as a

judge; for he feels himself called upon to decide not only on the law, but on the controverted facts of the case. Other judges had referred the decision on controverted facts to a master or to a jury; but the Lord Chancellor makes up his mind to the facts as well as to the law in all cases of bankruptcy." If the delay imputed to his lordship arose from his indulgence in pleasure or in frivolous amusements, he should be one of the first to condemn it; but when he saw a man devoting twelve out of twenty-four hours, without remission, to the public business, and allowing himself no longer a vacation than three weeks out of fifty-two, he would pass over with a light hand the venial fault of him who decided slowly, from the peculiar constitution of his mind, and his ultra anxiety to decide justly. The presence of the Lord Chancellor before the Commission on all occasions where his presence was necessary, and his absence on all occasions where his presence was likely to exercise any control over the witnesses, were facts which must tell to his immortal honour.

Dr Lushington defended the conduct of the Commissioners, of whom he was one; but regretted that the report contained no recommendation of a change in the system of commissioners of bankrupts. With reference to the system of conveyancing, he said that no country gentleman could guess the tax (until his solicitor's bill was brought in) which the present system imposed upon him. It never could be right that the abstract of a man's title should take up 800 brief sheets, as appeared from the report to have been the case in one instance. Of a large estate which he (Dr Lushington) held as a trustee, and which was valued at 800,000*l.*, many small plots were to be sold; and would the House believe it when he told them, that the abstract to the title of those small

plots filled 400 large brief sheets? Such a system inevitably led to injury and confusion. He therefore called upon the House to devise a remedy for an evil which had increased, was increasing, and which he believed everybody would admit ought to be diminished.

Mr Brougham said, it appeared to him that there was an omission of the most material importance in the labours of the commission. That omission principally consisted of a want of inquiry into the causes of delay between the final hearing of a cause, and the decision by the Lord Chancellor. That there was an expense and abuse arising from the delays of the Court of Chancery, was not to be denied at this time of day. The country wished to be informed whether it was owing to the system of the court; if so, to which of its branches,—and then, how it was to be remedied. Other individuals entertained similar opinions to his own as to the causes of delay; nor would there have been any difficulty in extracting such opinions from the witnesses examined, had not the commissioners intentionally shrunk from the task of extracting them. He would give one proof of it out of many which were contained in the report. In fol. 95 of the evidence attached to the report: “Q. After a cause has been heard, is there, generally speaking, much delay in obtaining a decision?—A. That depends upon the different judges before whom it is heard. Q. Supposing the cause to be heard before the Lord Chancellor, is there much and what time elapses before obtaining a decision?—A. Certainly; frequently months; sometimes years; and I have heard of many cases in which the parties have not been able to obtain any decision at all.” What did the House think was the next question?—“Is not the Chancellor much occupied in hearing appeals?”

—a question evidently asked, to afford an excuse for the Lord Chancellor, and to turn aside the examination from the course which it then seemed to take. It was in vain to deny that it was his political distractions of which his court had principally reason to complain. There was also in the Lord Chancellor a certain doubting disposition, of which he could not easily divest himself,—an infirmity of temper which led him to over-much subtlety, and disceptation, which made him, as it were, lay traps for that sound judgment which in general distinguished him. He contended, however, that with all this tendency to doubt, his lordship was not long in making up his mind to pronounce the opinion which he had deliberately formed. Amongst other disadvantages of the various avocations, to which his lordship was subjected, the suitors had to experience this material and important one—that the Lord Chancellor could not attend continuously, at any one time, to hear the whole of a case, so as to be able to take a full view of it, and to decide at the moment that all the arguments on both sides were fresh upon his mind. So it was now, and would continue to be, until the judicial was separated from the political character of the Lord Chancellor.—The learned gentleman proceeded to advert to the opposition which was always given, if not by the Lord Chancellor himself, at least by his friends, to any measure of reform in the (now at length) admitted abuses of his court. On one occasion a committee was appointed, and was so constituted (though a majority of his friends was to be found in it), yet it was so constituted as to promise some prospect of effectual reform. Its proceedings went on smoothly for two or three days; but at length some delicate point was started, and down, poured his lord-

ship's friends and allies—principally Masters in Chancery—some of them Masters in existence, or Masters *in esse*, and others Masters in expectation, or Masters *in posse*; and the consequence was, the inquiry was stifled. In 1810, 1811, 1813, 1821, and 1822, exertions had been made to procure a committee without effect; and, during the whole of that period, the Lord Chancellor himself had made no single exertion, not one effort—no, not so much as to the moving of the little finger of his left hand to procure the remedy of one evil—the correction of any, even the smallest, abuse, that under his own eye, and with his own knowledge, existed in his court.

Mr Robert Smith said, that the commission was not authorized to in-

quire into the conduct of the Lord Chancellor; and he should have esteemed an inquiry on ex-parte statements most unconstitutional.

Mr Denman thought that an inquiry into the conduct of the Lord Chancellor was the most important duty of the commission; and that if, as had been alleged, the delays of the court originated with him, it ought to have been specified in the report.

Mr Tindal defended the report, and augured much advantage from the measure before the House.

Mr Abercrombie thought that it would have the effect of considerably increasing the appeals.

Leave was given to bring in the bill, which was not farther proceeded in during the session.

CHAPTER VII.

The Representation of Edinburgh.—Parliamentary Reform.—Private Committees.—Reversals of Attainder.

THE Scottish Reformers, having failed in their grand object to effect a radical and complete change in the municipal governments of their country, were encouraged by a variety of circumstances to endeavour to advance their cause, by struggling for minor changes; and among these the most practicable and plausible, was to vest the right of electing the representative in Parliament of Edinburgh, in the great body of the inhabitants of that city. The change in question was practicable, as Edinburgh is the only Scotch borough which singly returns a member to Parliament; and it was plausible, on account of the consequence of Edinburgh, as the metropolis of the kingdom, and of the wealth and intelligence of a great proportion of its inhabitants. We are certainly far from being enamoured of any part of the borough system, whether in Scotland or England. On the contrary, we regard it, particularly in Scotland, where it is altogether *close*, as a perennial source of moral evil to an incalculable amount. But we would wish to know, how was the empire at large, or Edinburgh in particular, to be benefited by conferring upon the inhabitants of that city the right of electing their own representative? It will readily be admitted, that a popular election is, in itself, a great evil to those who have to exercise the right,

by suspending among them all active industry for a time, and leading to much dissipation, strife between individuals and families, constraint of conscience in many cases, and infinite corruption. For all this, it is true, they may be indirectly compensated by the advantages which flow to them, in common with the rest of the nation, from the representative system; but according to the views entertained by the reformers themselves, the addition of only one popular member made to the body of representatives, would be an improvement so minute as to be of no advantage whatever; it could make not the smallest change in the general disposition or policy of that body; and, therefore, without any compensating advantages, the right of electing that one member would be a positive and unallayed evil to the community which had to return him.

The citizens of Edinburgh, however, thought differently; and having intrusted their cause to Mr Abercrombie, that honourable gentleman, (by whom a petition from 6000 or 7000 persons, praying for reform in the representation of Edinburgh, had been previously presented,) on March 9, in moving for leave to bring in a bill to amend the representation in parliament of the city of Edinburgh, commenced by assuring the House, that

the course which he proposed to take was the result of anxious and careful investigation. An election of members for Edinburgh by a body of only 33 voters out of a population of 100,000 people, was not a state of things which could be openly defended. He was ready to confess, that if he succeeded as to Edinburgh, he was so far a parliamentary reformer, that he should not be inclined to rest there, but should endeavour to extend the same advantages which would then be procured for the capital of Scotland, to her towns and boroughs generally. He had preferred calling upon parliament first to attend to the case of Edinburgh, because that city had members for itself, and was not joined with any contributory borough. For any charge which might be made against him of republican spirit, he repelled it by reference to the petition which he had presented. There was not one word contained in that petition which was not of the most respectful as well as of the most constitutional character; and the petitioners, after setting out their grievance, did not venture even to prescribe what should be the remedy. He knew that it would be argued against him, that Edinburgh had prospered under the present system. But Edinburgh had prospered, not through, but in despite of, the town-council, and against their most desperate efforts to prevent it. Since he first had the honour to sit in the House, a great many questions of vital importance to Edinburgh and its inhabitants had been brought forward in parliament. In one and all of those subjects the inhabitants of Edinburgh were found arranged on one side, and the town-council on the other. He was not bound to show any case of particular abuse. All that was incumbent upon him was to show, that the measure he proposed was safe; and well quali-

fied to benefit the public. Though the act of 1469 was passed to prevent election broils among the people, its intention was also to secure the fidelity of the representatives by making their election annual: but from the passing of that act till the civil wars, many laws had been passed to correct the gross abuses which the system had generated. In the reign of Charles II. the abuses had again become formidable, and the subject of complaints so clamorous, that a royal commission was appointed, and the report of that commission found that there was great corruption and disorder in the boroughs, because of adventurers who squandered away their money in the purchase of votes. Little good was done in the way of remedy. At the revolution another commission set forth the same evils as abundantly arising from the same causes, and the Convention Parliament recommended as a remedy, what was called by them the only true and rational mode of free elections. Scotland in the following reigns became twice convulsed, and it was no wonder that during that stormy period nothing was done. From 1784, down to the present day, the subject had been forced upon the observation of parliament again and again. No remedy had been applied, and the evil remained as before. The people had been excluded from all control over those who managed their affairs, and the corporations had become venal and corrupt bodies, who had lost the confidence of the public, and were not worthy to be trusted with the powers and privileges which they held. This was not his opinion only. It was that of a philosopher, an enlightened author, and a learned judge, who had thus instructed his descendants, and enlightened posterity upon the subject. "The greatest evil of all, respects the claims of some few men in the royal burghs to elect

the representatives to sit in parliament." The passage was from Lord Kaimes, who described the excessive venality of corruption which had been introduced into those corporations. It would be objected to him, that any alteration of the rights of these boroughs would be an infringement on the articles of union. Let the House recollect what parliament had done in the case of the heritable jurisdictions of 1747, which had been most distinctly reserved by the articles of union, which were much more matters of property than the rights of the burghs, which were legally subjects for sale, mortgage, or the claims of creditors; yet parliament abolished them. It went farther: it re-organized the court of session, and established a mode of trial which before had been unknown in Scotland. He enlarged on the unmeaning dread entertained of the enlightened and educated householders of Edinburgh, as if they could have an interest in misrule. Those who were hostile to radical or any other reform in England, ought to vote for reform in Scotland. Here there was, in particular cases, at least something like the representation and free expression of the public sentiment and opinion in parliament. In Scotland there was nothing of the kind. There was not one open borough, and popular election was altogether unknown. The most unjustifiable system of representation in a free government ever heard of was that of Scotland.

Mr W. Dundas was not surprised that the learned gent. appeared now as the chosen champion of borough reform. The learned gent. was himself a splendid example of purity of election. What was the shape in which the boon was proffered to Scotland? It was presented to them by the representative of the free and incorruptible borough of Calne. He

would himself object to any change in the system of representation. But if the House should at any time entertain a project for altering that system, (and he should call that indeed "England's evil day,") he flattered himself that such had been the exemplary conduct of the royal boroughs, that they would receive so much commiseration from the House, as to be denounced last. Let them not take this upon his word. About seven years ago, a noble lord had moved for a committee to inquire into the representation of the city of Edinburgh. He succeeded in his purpose—he named his own committee, according to the courtesy of the House, of which privilege he very fully availed himself. What followed? The fullest inquiry was instituted, all the officers of the corporation were sent for, and a ship-load of books and papers was examined. The result was perfectly triumphant to the parties accused. No abuse was shown; and therefore there could be no pretence for proceeding.

Mr J. P. Grant denied that they were arguing a subject of personal right merely. These corporators were in possession of a right which they held as a duty and a trust for the public. He was entirely opposed to any general and sweeping plan of reform. But to this degree of reform, those who resisted it on every other occasion ought to agree. In Scotland there was no such thing as a popular election. But it was said that popular elections were attended with danger. If so, then England at the present moment was in a most dangerous situation, for her elections were of that character. He thought it would be impossible ever to govern Scotland otherwise than as a province or colony, until she obtained something like a fair representation in the Legislative Assembly of the empire.

Sir George Clerk rose to protest against the doctrine, that the question before the House did not involve that of general reform ; for when once the safe-guards which protected the ancient rights and privileges of boroughs were broken down, it would be impossible to say where the work of innovation was to stop. In England no interference with the rights of boroughs was ever attempted by parliament, except in cases of corruption ; and it was required that the clearest proofs should be given of venality, before the right of election was impugned. Why should Edinburgh be the first to be thus interfered with ? It had its peculiar mode of election. So had the cities and boroughs of England. He would admit that in Edinburgh the number of electors was small, but in some cities in England the electors were not more numerous. Why, then, begin with Edinburgh ? It would be much more safe not to interfere ; for it would be impossible to do so even in a slight degree, without letting in the whole question of general parliamentary reform. If he looked at the state of Scotland—at the rapid advances she had made in the arts and sciences—at the great improvements in the moral condition of the people, he saw no ground for changing a system under which such a state of things had grown up.

Sir R. Fergusson briefly supported the motion.

Sir F. Burdett :—" On the former occasion, when this question was discussed, I felt great difficulty in taking part in the debate, from a kind of feeling, that if I had interfered, the advocates of this question might have exclaimed *Non tali auxilio*. But the question has been discussed this evening upon such broad and general grounds, that I now feel no hesitation in joining in the debate. The con-

duct of the right hon. gentleman (Mr W. Dundas) who represents the corporation of Edinburgh, has undoubtedly been such as to furnish the inhabitants of that city with a cogent reason why they should persevere in that claim of right which, I am glad to hear, they are determined, by all constitutional means, to urge and maintain, because he has exhibited the zeal with which a representative will always defend the interests of those who are really his constituents. Yet he could not deny that the system of representation in Scotland is, as a system, complete in all its parts, a scandalous and unblushing violation of all the rights of the people, and directly at variance with the best interests of the country. The case stated this evening by my learned friend (Mr Abercrombie) is so complete and unanswerable, that it has remained not only unanswered, but even unattempted to be answered. It is, in fact, like the political corruption of Scotland, a ' perfect chrysolite,' without flaw or blemish ;

' Totus, teres, atque rotundus.'

Talk to the enemies of every species of reform of one evil, and they meet you by mentioning the existence of twenty others : the hon. baronet (Sir George Clerk) does, indeed, admit that the case of Edinburgh is atrocious ; but then he says that of Bath is quite as atrocious. I perfectly agree with him. But it is in this way that all complaints are met in this House. Let any case, however scandalous, be brought forward, twenty others, equally scandalous, are immediately cited as reasons why no reform should be attempted in any case, because it cannot be applied to every one. I trust that my learned friend will receive the support of some part of his Majesty's government. I can hardly call the present an administration ; it is rather two halves of one, drawing

together like galley slaves at the same oar. They have not one mind or sentiment as to any one great question affecting the public welfare. What power keeps together so incongruous a mass—what Mezentius is able, *complexu misero*, to join them like the living and the dead, I cannot divine. Like *Caliban's* double monster, they have two heads and two voices.”—In conclusion, the hon. baronet called upon the right hon. gentleman (Mr Canning) in the spirit in which he had reprobated the principles which had consigned Galileo to the dungeon, which, to use his phrase, had rolled back the tide of civilization, to support a motion which, without his aid, stood on a firm basis, and which defied even his ingenuity to shake. If this motion should be rejected, it would show the determination of the House to resist all improvement, and would compel men, when all rational hopes were destroyed, to go even further than their cooler judgments would prompt them. If the House rejected the motion, the people of England, Ireland, and Scotland, might bid adieu to all reform from that House.

Mr Keith Douglas could see nothing special in the case of the city of Edinburgh to call for the present motion.

Lord A. Hamilton :—The only argument that had been offered against this motion was, that it was contrary to the provisions of the union ; but this, in fact, was no argument at all, and could not be relied upon as a principle by which the opinion of the Houses should be governed. The union with Ireland, and the interference with heritable jurisdictions, had materially altered the question.

The Lord Advocate said, he wished this to be treated as a British, and not merely as a Scottish, subject. If a reform in the representation was to

be attempted, he thought it would be but fair that the trial should extend to the whole empire, and not be confined merely to one of the weaker parts of it ; for, unless it were for the purpose of effecting some such general reform, he could not discover on what principle the charter of a borough was to be taken from it, and the articles of the union violated, merely because it was imagined that its elective franchise might be placed in better hands. Where the elective franchise had been interfered with in England, it had always been on account of some corruption or very improper conduct in the parties who had the exercise of it ; but against the borough of Edinburgh no misconduct had been, no misconduct could be, alleged. He believed the electors in this borough were less exceptionable than the electors of any other borough in Scotland ; and it should be recollected, that although their number only consisted of thirty-three, still these thirty-three were chosen by a very numerous body. Neither were they all of the same political principles ; six or seven of them, amongst whom was the convener of the guild of trade, agreed in their political opinions with the hon. gentlemen who sat on the same side of the House with the author of the motion. He was convinced that the giving votes to all those who occupied tenements of the value of L.5 a-year, and which were, in fact, generally occupied by gentlemen's servants, would, instead of improving the representation, have a directly contrary tendency.

Mr Canning.—“I have been called upon by the honourable baronet (Sir F. Burdett) to answer certain questions which have been proposed to me, connected with the general question of reform, and to declare upon what ground I can, in any consistency with some former declarations of

mine on another occasion, oppose that degree of improvement which is supposed to be contained in the present proposal. It is perfectly true, that on the occasion alluded to by the honourable baronet, I did make use of those expressions which he has taken as the foundation of his argument; and that I did state, that I would not resist change, merely because it was change, neither would I resist innovation, as innovation,—provided they were accompanied by that degree of improvement and advantage which would sanction a departure from established order, and warrant the propriety of adopting them. And I confess I am very much at a loss to understand how any inference can be drawn from those professions, which would warrant the assertion that I am bound to support reform at this moment more than at any other period of my political life; and still less can I comprehend why it could be supposed I would support the measure now before the House, from any former declaration: for of it I do not hesitate to say, that if I had never opposed reform before, still I would give this motion my most determined opposition. I consider it, whether I look to the circumstances of its introduction, or to the consequences which it professes to obviate, as being one of the most objectionable of all the measures of reform which I have yet known submitted to this House. The noble lord (A. Hamilton) has said that he hopes I do not intend to rest my opposition to a reform in the Scottish boroughs, on the articles of union: to a certain degree, I will admit that I do not. If, on other grounds, I could bring myself to think that a great and sweeping plan of reform, which would go to the reform not only of the Scottish boroughs, but of the whole system of representation in the empire, could be made practi-

cable and beneficial; and if these articles of union stood in the way of that general improvement, I would go with the noble lord in his view of the case, and say that nothing in that act with respect to a particular portion of the empire could be conclusive against the power and opinions of the legislature, when considering the advantages which would result to the whole community. But I think that no such good would result from any such sweeping or general reform; that the present motion would not do good, either as advancing the general question, or putting a termination to a particular abuse; and I cannot but be of opinion with the learned lord who spoke before me, that we are bound to oppose any experimental plan of reform when about to be applied to that party who is the weakest in the compact, and that she has a right to say, Try the measure first upon yourselves, before you subject us to its consequences, and do not select the viler vessel to make upon it a trial of your experiments. Since the commencement of the present debate, I have had the articles of union put into my hand; and in them I find that the article upon the subject runs thus:—"And be it provided, that from and after this date, no one shall be capable to elect or be elected a member of the parliament for the United Kingdoms of England and Scotland, except such as may have been capable to elect or be elected for the parliament of Scotland." Now I say, that as long as England preserves that state of representation which she possessed at the period of this union, so long has Scotland a right to plead that she should not be compelled to adopt any plans of reform which England may not think it expedient to try upon herself;—but if, I repeat, the whole empire was to be affected by any such alterations,

then I would contend that Scotland could not plead this act of union in bar of the claims of that empire, for the purposes of universal benefit. Again I admit, with the noble lord and the learned mover, that there may not be in Scotland such an expression of popular feeling as might be desirable. But we are not arguing the question with regard to Scotland alone. I am prepared to contend that, taking Scotland with its representation, to be, as it virtually is, a part and parcel of an empire, in which so many classes of things and sentiments find, and must have, an organ of their opinions, it is fully and truly in possession of a representation of its opinions in the parliament of the kingdom. I do not mean to say that if I were allotting the portion of representation, I would not give to Scotland a larger share of that popular infusion which I consider desirable; but I do say, that the infusion of other parts of the empire, where the representation is of a character more popular, produces such a commixture in the general parliament of the empire, as I think sufficient to ensure all, even the highest, objects for which such a body may be desirable in this rich and populous country. Let us for a moment consider the case, as applied to Scotland, in the view of public benefit. Have we any reason to believe that country to have been exposed to any difficulties, to have suffered any distresses, because the representatives of that kingdom have not been chosen with the same regard to the popular voice as in the elections of this more wealthy and more populous nation? If we look to Scotland, can we say that in these times, when the whole empire has been flourishing, she has not advanced in power and importance? So far from that, I would say the very reverse is nearer the truth. She has

even outstripped us in the race of prosperity, made advances to wealth and greatness, in a ratio much beyond those who enjoyed in its fullest extent, the benefits of free and uncontrolled election. The learned gentleman has said, that he has been induced to bring forward this motion from the disparagement which has been thrown upon the character of the Scotch representatives. I own I have observed no shrinking—no awkwardness of feeling on their part; I have perceived no symptoms of that disparagement. Whatever may be said of Scotch representation, it must be admitted that Scotland makes good her own. Whatever may be the grievances of which she complains, she cannot complain of this country having made any intrusion or any impression upon her representation—at least not permanently. There was, it is true, the exception of Mr Fox, who, having been once rejected by Westminster, sought refuge in the arms of Kirkwall. But I never heard of any southern invaders having made a permanent lodgment there—whilst they (the Scotch) are not satisfied with filling their own representation, but, besides, keep representatives in reserve for filling the boroughs of England. The very motion of this night proceeds from a gentleman who comes from that country; who has nestled himself in an English borough; and who, having so nestled himself, undertakes with filial piety to reform the abuses in the representation of his mother country. For my part, were I an advocate for the measure of parliamentary reform, which I am not, I would move an amendment to the motion of the learned gentleman, and instead of a motion for “leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relative to choosing a representative for Edinburgh,” I would propose that “Edinburgh”

be omitted, and that "Calne" be substituted for it. I would say to those who complain of smallness as an objection to the exercise of elective rights, "Look at home before you go abroad." If this objection is to be an available one, why select Edinburgh, when the learned member, by looking at home, would find a fitting subject for the experiment he proposes? I have argued this question as it is connected with the place to which the motion has reference, and I shall briefly proceed to notice it, as it is connected with the more general question of parliamentary reform; and first, I would say, that this is the single instance in which the paucity of the numbers of the electors has been made a ground of disfranchisement—on every other occasion, it has been deemed necessary to allege and prove an abuse in the exercise of the franchise; and I contend, that without the proof of such abuse, there is no conclusive ground established for an alteration in it. I, besides, object to this motion, because it is the first time that such a change would be made on the ground that the electing portion of the inhabitants of a place is disproportionate to the bulk of its population—and because, by entertaining it now, a series of discussions leading to endless contentions and individual squabbles, would be let into that great question of parliamentary reform, of which the noble lord (Lord J. Russell) has given notice for an early day.

Mr Hobhouse supported the motion, and Mr Abercrombie having replied, the House divided. For the motion, 97; against it, 122—majority against the motion, 25.

The question of Parliamentary Reform was agitated at considerable length upon Lord John Russell having, on April 27, submitted a resolution to the House of Commons, to

the effect "that the present state of the representation of the people of England requires the serious consideration of the House." The arguments on both sides were thread-bare, and often-repeated ones, with which the public is perfectly familiar. The motion was supported by Lord Althorp, Lord Glenorchy, and Mr Hobhouse; and opposed by Mr J. Denison, Mr Ross, Lord Leveson Gower, and Mr William Lamb. On a division, there appeared, for the motion, 123, against it, 247; majority, 124.

Lord John Russell was more successful, when, upon May 26, he, agreeably to notice, rose to propose certain resolutions on the subject of bribery, and corruption. He observed, that in 1775, a resolution was come to by the House, that if any member should obtain his seat by bribery and corruption, he should be visited with the utmost severity of the House; but, notwithstanding this, it was notorious that bribery and corruption prevailed to an enormous extent, and that in many boroughs it was the practice for the agents of the candidates to give sums of money to the different voters, after the expiration of the fourteen days during which petitions might be presented to the House, complaining of undue elections, by which expedient parties were enabled to practise the most gross bribery with impunity. Unless the House were resolved to put an effectual stop to such proceedings, it would be much better that voters should be allowed to sell their suffrages to the best bidder, in the same way as they sold their chattels or other articles of merchandise; because it was quite a farce that there should be bills in the statute-book, and resolutions on the journals of the House, against bribery and corruption, whilst so many members procured their seats there by such means, and totally set these acts and

resolutions at defiance. He concluded by moving the resolutions:

"1. That whenever a petition shall be presented to this House, after the expiration of the time allowed for presenting petitions against the validity of the return of any member of this House, by any person or persons, affirming that at any time within 18 calendar months previous to presenting the said petition, general bribery or corruption has been practised, for the purpose of procuring the election or return of any member or members to serve in parliament for any borough, cinque port, or place, and it shall appear to the said House that such petition contains allegations sufficiently specific to require further investigation, a day and hour shall be appointed by the said House for taking the said petition into consideration, so that the space of 20 days shall intervene between the day on which the said petition shall have been presented, and the day appointed by the said House for taking the same into consideration; and notice of such day and hour shall be inserted, by order of the Speaker, in one of the two next *London Gazettes*, and shall also be sent by him to the returning officer of the borough, cinque port, or place, to which such petition shall relate: and a true copy of such notice shall by such returning officer be affixed to the door of the town-hall or parish church nearest to the place where the election of members to serve in parliament for such borough, cinque port, or place, has been usually held.

"2. That at the hour appointed by the said House for taking such petition into consideration, the said House shall proceed to appoint a select committee to inquire into the truth of the matters contained in the said petition, and report the result of their inquiry to the said House; and

such select committee shall consist of 13 members, to be chosen by lot, according to the directions, provisions, rules, and regulations, and subject to the exemptions for choosing 49 members by lot, contained in the various acts to regulate the trials of controverted elections, or returns of members to serve in parliament, so far as they are applicable thereto, and of two others to be appointed by the said House out of the members then present in the said House; and the 13 members so chosen by lot, together with the two members to be so appointed by the said House, shall be a select committee, and shall inquire into and try the matter of such petition, and shall report their opinion thereof, together with the evidence given before them, to the said House."

Mr C. W. Wynn said, that there was already a proper tribunal for investigating and redressing the evils of which the noble lord complained, and moved the previous question.

Mr Peel, for his own part, did not disapprove of the principle contained in the resolutions; but at the same time, without having bestowed some further attention upon them, he could not concur in them.

Lord Milton observed, that this motion was by no means improper to be introduced at the close of the parliament; but if left till next session, some of the boroughs might, under the present system of the House, have a right to complain; and it would induce some persons to look with a lenient eye to them.

Mr Lockhart was of opinion, that the words of the resolution were not sufficiently comprehensive, so as to reach every species of bribery.

Mr Brougham said, that the practice referred to by the hon. member, of paying the electors after the election, though unconnected with any previous promise, was illegal. He had

no doubt of its being an act of corruption, and of gross illegality. Although an act of bribery, it might be a question how far the vote was disqualified thereby. His noble friend might, however, modify the resolution.

Mr Hume begged to state, that he had received a letter from an elector in a certain place, intimating that they were prepared to receive any person who would pay L.3000.

Mr Hudson Gurney would support the motion for the previous question. He believed that no member could be returned without doing some act against the law as at present constituted. Either in meal or malt, it was the common understanding amongst persons to accommodate themselves more or less to the general practice. The bribery laws should be rendered more plain, simple, precise, and just.

Mr Alderman Wood felt called upon to notice the extraordinary assertion of the hon. member (Mr Gurney) in which he represented all as having their price. But if he asserted that all members must pay either in meal or malt, he (Mr Wood) would tell that hon. member, that he had been three times returned for the City of London, and had never spent a shilling, even for conveyance of electors.

Sir Robert Wilson observed, that the hon. member (Mr H. Gurney) was but little acquainted with Southwark. He (Sir Robert Wilson) had never paid one shilling, either in meal or malt; neither had his hon. colleague, in the one or the other.

The House then divided; when the numbers were found to be equal, namely—for the first resolution, 62—against it, 62.

The Speaker gave his casting vote in favour of the resolution as follows:

“It now being his duty to give his vote, and considering the proposed

resolution, as merely declaratory of what are the powers and what is the duty of the House, and that any inaccuracy in the wording of the resolution might be amended when in the new parliament it must be revoked, he should give his vote in the affirmative.”

The second resolution was then put, and agreed to.

Wednesday, April 19.—Mr Littleton said, in laying before the House the resolutions he was now about to propose, he knew that the complaints which were made against the proceedings of committees, out of doors, could not be effectually cured by any regulation of those committees, or even by the interference of the House itself. They were all aware that the conduct of conflicting parties, out of doors, was such as imposed great labour, and inflicted no little pain, on those who were obliged to attend private committees. Efforts of every description were resorted to, for the purpose of effecting the particular object of each of these conflicting bodies. The parties by their litigious conduct harassed and wearied the members of the House; and the proceedings they frequently adopted to carry their point were alike destructive of the ends of public and private justice. They knew that cases had occurred in which members had conducted themselves in a way which showed that they were regardless of their own honour, and of the interests of the public. He therefore thought the safe and preferable course would be, to adhere as far as possible to the system established at present, providing, that where any case of decided abuse in a committee up stairs was fairly made out, the parties complaining should be entitled to apply for a select committee, to be appointed by ballot, who should proceed

with the consideration of the bill. It appeared desirable to him that an alteration should be made in the present distribution of counties for the formation of committees on private bills. The resolutions which he was about to propose, would secure an efficient attendance for each county. If these resolutions were carried, they must be considered only in the light of trial and experiment, and not as intending to interfere in any degree with the present established system. The hon. gentleman then moved his resolutions :

“ That the present distribution of counties for the purpose of forming committees on private bills, prepared under the direction of the Speaker, some years ago, has, from the great inequality of the numbers of members contained in each list, and from other causes, been found not to answer the object for which it was framed.

“ That, with a view more nearly to equalize numbers, and to correct too strong a prevalence of local interests on committees on private bills, it is expedient that a new distribution of counties should be made, containing in each list, as nearly as may be, 120 members; one-half only, or thereabouts, to be taken from the county immediately connected with the object of the bill, and the adjoining counties; and the other half from other more distant counties of Great Britain and Ireland; and that the members serving for such counties, and the places within such counties, should constitute the committee on each bill.

“ That Mr Speaker be requested to direct a new distribution of counties to be prepared at the commencement of each session, in such manner as shall be approved of by him, conformably to the principle of the foregoing resolution.

“ That every committee on a private bill be required to report to the House the bill referred to it, with the evidence and minutes of the proceedings.

“ That a committee be appointed at the commencement of every session of parliament, to be called ‘ The Committee of Appeals upon Private Bills ;’ which committee shall consist of all the knights of the shire, all the members for cities, and such other members as may be named therein; so that the whole number appointed to serve upon such committee shall amount to 200 at least.

“ That where any party interested in a private bill, who shall have petitioned the House, and shall have appeared in support of his petition by himself, his counsel, or agent, in the committee upon such bill; or, where the promoters of a private bill shall be dissatisfied with any vote of the committee upon such bill, and shall petition the House, setting forth the particular vote or votes objected to, and praying that they may be heard, by themselves, their counsel, or agent, against such vote or votes, such petition shall, together with the report of the committee upon the bill, and the minutes and evidence taken before such committees, be referred to a select committee of seven members of the House, to be chosen by ballot from the committee of appeals upon private bills; which select committee shall hear the arguments of the parties complaining of, and also of the parties supporting, such vote or votes, and shall report their opinion thereon to the House.

“ That whenever a petition shall be presented, complaining of any vote of a committee upon a private bill, the House shall fix a day whereon to ballot for a select committee, to whom such petition shall be referred; upon which day, at a quarter past four

o'clock, or as near thereto, as the question which may be then before the House will permit, the Speaker shall order the doors of the House to be locked, and the names of the members composing the committee of appeals upon private bills being written upon separate pieces of paper, and put into the glass, the clerk shall draw therefrom the names, until seven members of such committee who shall be then present, and who shall not have voted in the committee upon the private bill to which the petition refers, shall have answered to their names; which seven members shall be the select committee to whom such petition shall be referred, and such select committee shall meet for business the following day, at eleven o'clock, and continue to sit, *de die in diem*, until they shall have reported upon the same.

“That no member of such select committee shall absent himself therefrom during its sitting.

“That such select committee shall, if they think fit, after the hearing of such argument, order the party or parties complaining to pay the whole or any part of the costs attending the same:” (to which these words were added, as an amendment) “and that only one counsel or agent shall be heard in support of the petition of any one party.”

“That the party or parties complaining shall, previously to the balloting for such select committee, enter into recognizances, he, she, or they, in the sum of 300*l.*, and two sureties in the sum of 150*l.* each, for the payment of such costs as may be awarded against him or them.”

After some unimportant discussion, the House divided on the seventh resolution—ayes, 42—noes, 34—majority, 8; after which, the resolutions were agreed to.

In the House of Lords, on April 25, the Earl of Liverpool moved the first reading of certain bills, which were to restore James Sutherland, Esq. to the dignity and title of Baron Duffus—to restore David Ogilvy, Esq. and others, from the effects of the attainders of James, eldest son of David, Earl of Airlie; and of David Ogilvy, taking upon himself the title of Lord Ogilvy—to restore Patrick Murray Threipland, of Fingask, to the dignity of a baronet—to restore Francis Baron Wemyss and others from the effects of the attainder of David Wemyss, commonly called Lord Elcho.

These bills were read a first time, and subsequently passed.

CHAPTER VIII.

Dissolution of Parliament.—Summoning a New Parliament.—State of the Country.—Expedition to Portugal.—War with the Burmans and the Rajah of Bhurtpore.

On May 22d, Parliament was prorogued till the 14th of June, by the following royal speech, delivered by Commissioners.

The Commons being summoned to the House of Lords in the usual form, and the commission being read, the Lord Chancellor read the following speech :—

“ My Lords and Gentlemen,

“ His Majesty commands us to inform you, that the state of the public business enabling his Majesty to close the session at a period of the year the most convenient for a general election, it is his Majesty’s intention to dissolve, without delay, the present Parliament, and to direct the issue of writs for the calling of a new one.

“ His Majesty cannot take leave of you, without commanding us to express his Majesty’s deep sense of the zeal and public spirit which you have constantly displayed in the discharge of your several important functions.

“ His Majesty in particular acknowledges the promptitude and discretion with which you have applied yourselves to the objects specially recommended to you by his Majesty at the commencement of this session ; and his Majesty confidently hopes that the good effect of your deliberations will be manifested in the improved stability of public and private credit.

“ His Majesty has the satisfaction to inform you, that the distinguished skill, bravery, and success with which the operations of the British arms, in the dominions of the King of Ava, have been carried on, have led to the signature, upon highly honourable terms, of a preliminary treaty with that sovereign, which his Majesty has every reason to expect will be the foundation of a secure and permanent peace.

“ His Majesty further commands us to repeat to you, that his Majesty’s earnest endeavours have continued to be unremittingly exerted to prevent the breaking out of hostilities among nations, and to put an end to those which still unhappily exist, as well in America as in Europe.

“ Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

“ His Majesty commands us to thank you for the provision which you have made for the service of the year.

“ His Majesty’s attention will be constantly directed to the reduction of the public expenditure in every degree that may be consistent with the due maintenance of the security, honour, and interests of his kingdom.

“ My Lords and Gentlemen,

“ We are especially commanded to assure you, that his Majesty’s paternal feelings have been deeply affected

by the distresses which have prevailed among the manufacturing classes of his Majesty's subjects, and by the exemplary patience with which those distresses have been generally borne.

"His Majesty trusts that the causes out of which the partial stagnation of employment has arisen, are, under the blessing of Providence, in a course of gradual abatement.

"His Majesty is confident that your presence and example in your several counties will contribute to maintain and encourage the loyal and orderly spirit which pervades the great body of his people; and his Majesty relies upon your disposition to inculcate that harmony and mutual good-will among the several great interests of the country, upon which the common prosperity of them all essentially depends."

The Lord Chancellor then signified his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that the present Parliament be prorogued to Wednesday, the 14th day of June next; to which day it was prorogued accordingly.

On May 24th, the King issued a proclamation dissolving the Parliament, and calling a new one, the writs to be returnable on the 25th July.

The last parliament, which, when dissolved, was in the seventh, and legally the last year of its existence, will be memorable for the many great and important changes introduced under its sanction, into the judicial and commercial system of the country. It was a great point gained by the advocates of improvement, that it had given the broadest possible sanction to the truth, that all changes ought not at all times to be pertinaciously resisted. It cannot be doubted, however, that much of its character of liberality was impressed upon it by ministers themselves; and it has been surmised by some that the liberal part of the administration would have pushed their policy still farther, had they

been more certain than they were that their views would be seconded by Parliament.

The general election, which succeeded the dissolution of Parliament, contributed in a considerable degree to diminish the distress of the lower orders, by throwing into circulation large portions of the wealth of the aristocracy. The different contested elections were, in general, remarkable for the absence of all asperity of party feeling; and in no previous instance of a general election, had ministerial influence been less openly and less actively exerted. These, and the general results of the election, were signs of the times, which strikingly indicated that tone and temper of the public mind, to which we have already adverted.

During the spring, and most of the summer, the working classes in the manufacturing districts, owing to the want of employment, were reduced to a state of misery, deplorable beyond all former example. Famine itself, in this country, had never subjected the working classes to more cruel and trying privations than they were fated to endure. The benevolence and charity of the public were not slow in providing at least a partial relief for sufferers, the contemplation of which agonized humanity; and which excited more powerful sympathy on account of the resignation and fortitude with which they were borne. Public meetings were held in London and the great provincial towns, and large sums were subscribed in aid of the funds which were collected in the distressed districts for relief of the sufferers.

Though the prevailing distress led immediately to no popular disturbance, yet that, combined with the recent introduction into the weaving trade of engines of stupendous power, called power-looms, by which much manual labour was superseded, provoked

the weavers, in several districts of Lancashire and Yorkshire, into open outrage. Collecting in large masses, they destroyed immense numbers of the obnoxious engines; and resisted not only the civil power, but the military force which was employed to quell them—a duty which was executed with singular forbearance and humanity, but not without bloodshed.

The new Parliament assembled on the 20th November; but we must reserve noticing its proceedings for our ensuing volume.

Under the head of Spain and Portugal, we shall have occasion to relate at length a series of important political and military events, which led the Portuguese government, in virtue of ancient obligations of alliance and amity subsisting between the two countries, to demand of ours, its aid against a hostile aggression from Spain. The demand was made on 10th December; next day it was communicated by royal message to both Houses of Parliament; and, on the day following, addresses were, with almost unexampled unanimity, voted by both Houses, assuring his Majesty of their cordial co-operation in carrying into effect such measures as his Majesty might think proper to adopt to repel the aggression, which was the subject of the message. With such admirable decision and celerity did government proceed on this occasion, that Mr Secretary Canning was enabled on the 12th, only two days from the date of the demand made by the Portuguese ambassador, in name of his government, to announce to the House of Commons, when moving the address, that British troops for Portugal were already on their march; and in less than a fortnight, the whole expedition, (which was to be reinforced from Ireland and Gibraltar, and to consist altogether of 5000 men, including four squadrons of cavalry, and

commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir William H. Clinton,) had embarked at and sailed from Portsmouth.

We must now direct attention to the state of British affairs in the East Indies. In our last volume, in reference to the war with the Burmans, we mentioned, that the British army having established itself at Patanooch on the 27th December, 1825, a truce was concluded with the enemy, and an agreement entered into that negotiations for peace should commence on the 1st of January. Accordingly, on the day fixed, the British commander-in-chief, and the second commissioner, Mr Robertson, attended by the brigadiers attached to our army, met the two Burmese commissioners, Kelien Merzjee and the Kee Wongee. The place of conference was a boat moored in the middle of the river, between Patanooch and Melloone. The following were the terms of the treaty of peace, definitively agreed to at that conference:—

“The four provinces of Arracan to be definitively ceded to the Honourable Company in perpetuity.

“The provinces of Mergui, Tavay, and Zea, to be ceded to the Honourable Company in perpetuity.

“The Burman government engages to pay the Honourable Company one crore of rupees, by instalments, the periods for the payment of which to be settled this day.

“The provinces or kingdoms of Assan, Cashar, Zetung, and Muni-pore, to be placed under princes to be named by the British government.

“Residents, with an escort of fifty men, to be at each court: British ships to be admitted into Burmese ports, to land their cargoes free of duty, not to unship their rudders or land their guns; Burmese ships to have the same privilege in British ports; no

persons to be molested for their opinions or conduct during the war hereafter.

"The Siamese nation to be included in the peace."

A treaty, in the above form, was signed on the 3d January; and it was arranged that the ratification of it by the Burmese monarch, and the British prisoners then at Amara-poorah, were to arrive on the 15th at Patanoogh.

It might have been thought that the Burmans had been too effectually humbled to venture upon eluding the terms of the above treaty, and renewing their resistance to British demands. But their courage was not yet wholly subdued, nor their treachery exhausted. The 15th of January passed, without the arrival of the ratification or the British prisoners; and the commander-in-chief having observed a great augmentation of the enemy's forces at Mel-loone, and that he was busily employed in multiplying his stockades, determined upon attacking that town on the 19th. Accordingly, having made his preparations, he passed the river, and attacked the enemy's camp with the most decided success. The enemy fled in all directions; and the town, with all the ordnance, boats, commissariat stores, and a small quantity of treasure fell into the hands of the victors.

In the meantime, Colonel Pepper of the Madras army, and commanding in Pegu, was threatening the capital on the side of Tonghoo. Intending to reduce Zittaun, a stockade on the eastern bank of a river of that name, and midway between Shogheen, where he lay encamped, and Martaban, he dispatched the 3d regiment, light infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Corry, on that service. At two o'clock, on 7th January, Lieutenant-Colonel Corry caused the

attack upon Zittaun to be made; but, unfortunately, it completely failed, with a severe loss to the attacking regiment in killed and wounded. Among the former was the commanding officer himself. Lieutenant-Colonel Pepper, on receiving intelligence of this sad event, hastened in person with a reinforcement to Zittaun, which he reached on the 11th, and immediately prepared of new to attack the place. It stood on an eminence, and was garrisoned by 3000 or 4000 men. The British artillery, having taken up a position, commenced a fire of shot and shells upon the enemy; while the other troops, formed into columns, prepared to ford a creek which flanked the north side of the stockade. They advanced up to their necks in water, exposed all the time to a most destructive fire; and having gained their different positions, the advance was sounded to storm simultaneously; and in less than twenty minutes, the place was in their possession. The loss of the British was very considerable.

The main force, under Sir A. Campbell, after the capture of Mel-loone, advanced by rapid marches upon Amarapoorah, the capital. He was met by repeated messages from the Burmese sovereign, offering terms of peace, not so advantageous to us as those which had been agreed upon, and which were consequently rejected. Several skirmishes also took place between the two armies, which uniformly ended in the repulse of the enemy. At length, the British having reached Yandaboo, within four days' march of the capital, the barbarous monarch, alarmed for its fate, on 24th February, formally made his submission, and ratified the agreed on treaty. At the same time, he paid down the first instalment of twenty-five lacs of the crore of rupees, and restored all his prisoners. In addi-

tion to the former conditions of the treaty, the enemy agreed to acknowledge Gumber Singh as Rajah of Muni-pore, and that in addition to the other provinces ceded to the Honourable Company, they were to retain Ramree, Cheduba, and Sandamey.

Our troops commenced their return by the Irawaddy, on the 5th of March, and arrived in safety at Calcutta, having been preceded by the gallant Sir A. Campbell, and Mr Robertson.

While our Indian government was engaged in that war with the Burmans, which had commenced so inauspiciously, and under the most dismal forebodings, but ended so honourably and gloriously, it found itself compelled to undertake hostilities against another power, of less renown and fewer resources, but still far from contemptible.

The late Rajah of Bhurt-pore had appointed his son Bulwint Singh to be his successor, and the Indian Company to be his guardians. A native chieftain of Agra, named Doorgu Sall, chose to take up arms against the youthful prince, and succeeded in expelling him from his dominions, after having taken the redoubted fortress of Bhurt-pore, which, in a former war, Lord Lake had vainly endeavoured to reduce. In discharge of the sacred trust which it had undertaken, the Company's servants resolved upon measures for dethroning and expelling the usurper, and restoring Bulwint Singh to his lawful rights; and, accordingly, dispatched a large force,

under Lord Combermere, against Bhurt-pore, the seat of the usurper's government.

Having taken up a position in front of that formidable fortress, on 10th December 1826, his lordship, being desirous to save the women and children within it from the horrors of a siege, addressed a letter to Door-gun Sall, on the 21st, calling upon him to send them out of the fort, and promising them a safe conduct through his camp. To that letter an evasive reply was returned. On the 25th, the trenches were opened; and on the 18th January, the place was carried by storm. Among the prisoners, were the usurper himself, and two sons, who, with an escort, attempted to force a passage through the light cavalry. The English loss during the siege was so astonishingly low, as scarcely to exceed 500 men and 18 officers killed and wounded; and some of that loss was caused by the explosion of a mine under the north-east angle of the fortress, in an unexpected direction; which explosion was the signal for the storm. The enemy's loss was not short of 4000 killed. Few escaped, owing to the dispositions of the cavalry. The military power of Bhurt-pore having been annihilated by the capture of the fortress, and the ammunition and arms contained within it, the prisoners, after having been disarmed, were set free. All the other places of strength within the Bhurt-pore territory, successively surrendered to the British force.

CHAPTER IX.

France.—Spain.—Portugal.

THE affairs of these three kingdoms were this year, in some important respects, so connected and interwoven, as scarcely to admit of a separate discussion; and, on that account, we have classed them under one head.

In France, since the closing of the Chambers of 1825, the Jesuitical party in the state had been most assiduous in pushing their schemes for *evangelising* the public mind, and augmenting and consolidating their unconstitutional influence. The king seemed to be entirely at their disposal; and Villele, the minister, moderate in his views, cautious and intelligent, but ambitious and tenacious of his power, felt himself constrained, in every instance, to adopt a line of policy moderately conformable to their views. With a Chamber of Deputies, the majority of which was most obsequious to him, he there experienced no opposition to his measures; and, anomalous as the fact may seem, it was in the Chamber of Peers that the national temper and spirit found their most efficient representatives.

The Chambers opened their session on the 1st February. The royal speech commenced by stating that there existed no necessity, in the judgment of his majesty, for anticipating the period originally fixed for calling

the Chambers together; and his majesty therefore expressed the satisfaction he felt at not having abridged the repose on which they were allowed to depend. The death of the Emperor Alexander was briefly deplored, as that of one of the king's most magnanimous allies. The convention concluded with Great Britain, for the purpose of rendering more uniform the condition to which the reciprocal navigation of the two kingdoms and their colonies was subject, was described as a measure from which his majesty anticipated happy results to the commerce of France. The fate of St Domingo having been fixed, it was intimated that one of the subjects to which the Chambers would have to direct their attention, would be a law for the division of the indemnity which had been reserved for the ancient planters. His majesty assured them, that the progress of the national prosperity would allow of the reduction of those burdens which pressed most upon the people; but it also intimated, that increased allowances would be proposed for the ministers of religion. The speech then referred to the law of primogeniture (which had no footing in France) and some intended modifications of the existing laws as affecting the succession to property.

In the course of the session a law was proposed by ministers for the indemnification of the St Domingo planters, which, after undergoing some amendments, was adopted by both Chambers. Being of little importance, excepting to the planters themselves, it requires no farther notice. The other law, which was alluded to in the royal speech, was of a different character; and as it affected the established law of succession, which the public had been taught to consider as their great security against the restoration of feudalism and the entire of the old regime, it threw the whole of France into extreme agitation.

The measure was brought forward in the Chamber of Peers on the 10th February, by the keeper of the seals, who took great pains to show the incompatibility of the existing law of succession, by which children succeeded in common to the landed property of their ancestors with "the monarchical principle." "The individual in a monarchy," he observed, "is a family, a man collective, who succeeds himself and perpetuates himself, a man who never changes his position and wishes to change nothing. In democracies," he proceeded to observe, "of which, not durability, but division and change were the principle—the individual is the man, the isolated man, the man of a day, the man without care or regard as to what is passing, or what may occur; the man who has not time to establish anything, because in the state to which he belongs everything is constantly changing." After making this rather broad, and at same time metaphysical distinction between monarchical and republican governments, he proceeded to expose the inconveniences to a monarchical government, in which the people were allowed to participate, from the in-

finite division of landed property, to which the existing law necessarily conducted; and concluded, by submitting the following project of a new law upon the subject.

Art. 1. In every succession deviating from the direct line of descent, and paying 300 francs of land-tax, if the deceased had not conveyed the disposable quota, that quota shall be ascribed as a legal provision to the eldest of the deceased's male children.

If the deceased has conveyed a part of the disposable quota, the legal provision shall be made up of the undisposed portion of the quota.

The legal provision shall be drawn from the real estate, and in case of a shortcoming, from the personal estates.

2. The enactments of the two first of the preceding paragraphs shall be of no effect when the deceased shall have formally expressed his intention by a deed, *inter vivos*, or by will.

3. The property which it is permitted to make over in terms of the Articles 9, 13, 15, and 16, of the Civil Code, may be disposed of in whole or in part by a deed *inter vivos*, or by testament, but burdened with the provisions due to one or more of the testator's children, born, or to be born, even to the twelfth degree inclusive.

The project was warmly resisted in both Chambers, chiefly on the grounds that it was a stroke aimed at the order of things which had prevailed in France for many years; that it was an attempt to re-create a privileged aristocracy; and that what agricultural prosperity the country had to boast of was ascribable to the existing law of succession.

After the project had undergone a variety of amendments, it was finally put to the vote in the Chamber of Peers on the 8th of April, when there voted for the first and second articles in it 94, against them 120. The

third article was adopted by a majority of 54.

This result of the discussion was considered by the public as a defeat of the ministry, and a triumph over the ancient aristocracy, and as such was celebrated with great rejoicings in the capital. These led to some rather serious disturbances, which ended in the commitment to prison of a few youthful offenders.

It was conceived that, the project having been deprived of most of its virtue by the rejection in the Chamber of Peers of its first and second articles, ministers would not press it, in its mutilated state, to a decision in the Lower Chamber. In this expectation, however, the public was disappointed; for, on the 8th May, the third article of the project was put to the vote in that Chamber, when there voted for it 261, against it 76.

In Spain no event of any public importance occurred which was not connected with the affairs of Portugal, of which we shall immediately treat. Ferdinand continued under the besetting influence of Calomarde, the chief, or rather tool, of the Apostolical party, and continued to display, in his treatment of all who were suspected of liberal principles, his usual intolerance and cruelty. And yet it was by the machinations of the Carlists that his government was constantly disturbed and endangered.*

The King of Portugal having been attacked with an apoplectic fit, together with epilepsy, on 4th March, expired at Lisbon on the 10th of that month, at the age of 58 years. At the time, his hopeful son, Don Miguel, was in honourable exile at Vienna, and his

consort, the great originator of plots against the government, was kept in a state of exclusion at the palace of Quebeira. The Emperor of Brazil, as eldest son of the deceased king, succeeded by law to the vacant throne; and thus Portugal and Brazil became again united under the same sovereign. In order, however, to prevent the disorders which might ensue upon his death, and any disturbance being given to the lawful order of succession, the late king had, by a decree issued when he was on his deathbed, vested the government in his fourth daughter, the Infanta Donna Isabella Maria, who was twenty-four years of age—a well-meaning, but, as was discovered by experience, a passive and weak-minded woman. With a view to counteract the rebellious activity of the Queen's faction and the monks, whose aim it was to have Don Miguel proclaimed Absolute King, the British government had caused a fleet to be stationed in the Tagus; owing to which mainly, Donna Isabella Maria was enabled to enter upon the discharge of the functions of regent without opposition. She exercised those functions in the name of her brother, Don Pedro, the king and emperor; and to the astonishment of many, the queen dowager gave in her adhesion to the regent's authority. Soon after, her royal highness received a letter from her brother, Don Miguel, at Vienna, in which he expressed his readiness to submit in all things to the will of the late king; and disclaimed pointedly the most distant intention of sanctioning or countenancing, either directly or indirectly, any machination against the tranquillity of the state; and he called on his sister, in

* By a new convention entered into by him and the King of France, the French army in Spain, which, by the treaty of 10th December 1824, was reduced to 25,000 men, was still further reduced to 15,000, and only Cadiz and Pampeluna were to be garrisoned by them.

the possible event of any persons attempting to create disturbances, under the pretended sanction of his name, to make use of his letter, for the purpose of disproving, on his part, anything approaching to participation in their councils, or approbation of their measures.

It is highly probable that the above letter was written at the dictation of the Austrian ministers, since the Austrian emperor was naturally interested in the succession of his son-in-law, Don Pedro, to the Portuguese throne; but be that as it may, no one supposed it to have been conceived in a spirit of sincerity.

Among the earliest measures of the new government, was the dispatching a deputation of noblemen to the Court of Brazil, for the purpose of endeavouring to prevail on Don Pedro to return to his European dominions. The deputation sailed from the Tagus, in a line of battle ship, on 29th April. The result of this mission was looked forward to with much anxiety. It was clear, that if Don Pedro believed that monarchical institutions could be perpetuated in Brazil, and consulted the dignity of his dynasty, he would remain where he was, in a country destined to become one of the most powerful on the globe; but that if he studied only his personal ease and dignity, he would return to Portugal, which still was as powerful as Brazil then was, and where the legitimacy of his title of king would command a respect from his brother potentates, which they would scarcely allow to his newfangled one of emperor.

But before the above deputation could have reached Brazil, Don Pedro himself had matured a scheme for the government of Portugal, in the event of the death of his father. According to this scheme, he was to mount the Portuguese throne, but

his residence was to be fixed in Brazil; at the head of the regency was to be placed his eldest daughter, the Princess de Beira, Maria da Gloria, a child seven years of age, with whom were to be associated such Portuguese as possessed the esteem and confidence of the nation; when the Princess arrived at maturity, she, in virtue of a dispensation by the Pope, (who, among his other ghostly prerogatives, claims that of sanctioning violations of the law of nature,) was to be married to her uncle Don Miguel, when the kingdom was to be transferred by Don Pedro to her and Don Miguel.

On receiving the news of the death of his father, however, the views of Don Pedro underwent considerable modifications. With the decision which marks his character, he, by a decree of 25th April, confirmed the regency which had been nominated by the late king, and authorized its exercise of the power of government, until the installation of the one to be nominated in the constitutional charter, which he designed to bestow upon the Portuguese. By a second decree, of date 27th April, he granted a general amnesty to all Portuguese, arrested, or under judgment for political offences, or for desertion. By a third, dated 29th April, he gave to the Portuguese a constitutional charter, consisting of 8 titles and 145 articles. By this charter, the crown of Portugal was vested in the person of the Princess Maria da Gloria, and her descendants; and the government was strictly modelled after the form of the British one, by the establishment of two Chambers and other provisions. By other decrees, dated 30th April, his Majesty nominated, individually, the persons who were to compose the Chamber of Peers, persons of the first distinction in the state, at the head of whom was placed

the Duke de Cadaval, as their president ; and directed the regency immediately to proceed with the elections of the deputies, conformably to the charter. These decrees were followed up by another more important one, of date 2d May. By this, his majesty abdicated his rights to the crown of Portugal, in favour of his daughter Donna Maria da Gloria ; but, at same time, ordained that she should not leave the Brazilian dominions until she had sworn to observe the charter, and her marriage with Don Miguel was concluded, it being expressly declared, that, in the case of the non-fulfilment of these conditions, his abdication was to be considered null and of no effect.

These measures were universally ascribed to the advice and influence of Sir Charles Stuart, the British ambassador to the Brazils ; and the belief in the fact was confirmed by the circumstance of his being employed by the emperor and king to convey his royal decrees to Lisbon.

His excellency arrived in the *Tagus* on 2d July ; but it was not until the 7th that the corvette, on board of which he was, was permitted to enter the port. This delay arose from some doubts in the regency as to the propriety of acknowledging the charter, of which it was known Sir Charles Stuart was the bearer. At the head of the *doubters* was the Count de Porto Santo, minister for foreign affairs. At length, the princess, finding a speedy decision unavoidable, dismissed Porto Santo from office, and on the 8th gave an audience to the ambassador. On the 11th, the decree of Don Pedro, which confirmed the regency, was published ; and on the 13th, appeared a proclamation announcing, that the charter would speedily be made public.

This proclamation was gratefully received by the inhabitants of the ca-

pital and other large towns ; but by a great part of the army, and the rustic part of the population, it was regarded with extreme abhorrence. In the mountainous province of *Tras-os-Montes*, the inhabitants of which are the most bigoted, and, at the same time, the most hardy and warlike in Portugal, and strongly attached to the *Silviera* family, particularly the Marquis de Chaves, who had headed the counter-revolution of 1823, and had since resided at Madrid, a counter-proclamation appeared, urging the people to insurrection. In this document, it was affirmed that Don Pedro had forfeited his rights to Portugal, by making choice of Brazil for his empire, after its independence was declared ; that by the fundamental laws of the kingdom, the crown had devolved upon his younger brother Don Miguel, and that the decrees of Don Pedro were inspired by a revolutionary faction, who sought to subvert the liberties of Portugal. This proclamation had its effect upon the peasantry, who, in great numbers, took up arms, expecting to be reinforced from the side of Spain. But *Saldanha*, the commanding-general at Oporto, by prompt and vigorous movements, succeeded in dispersing these rude and disorderly hordes, and in capturing their chiefs, among whom was a brigadier-general of militia, named *Madeira*, and an ex-colonel of the name of *Silva*.

The charter was at length proclaimed on the 31st July, throughout the whole kingdom, without any opposition, and with great rejoicings, after the oath to it had been taken by the princess regent, and the principal civil and military officers in the State, as also the bishops and archbishops ; and soon afterwards, the functions of the former council of State having ceased, a proclamation by the princess regent appeared, in

which she announced, that by virtue of the charter, she had entered upon the exercise of the regency during the minority of her august niece, and legitimate queen, Donna Maria da Gloria. "I will enforce," she said, "and cause to be enforced, that immortal constitutional code, which secures to us our constitutional existence; woe to those who oppose it! The law shall punish them, and I shall be as inexorable as the law." The same day, her royal highness formed a new ministry, composed of Don Francisco de Almeida, foreign affairs; Don F. M. Trigozo d' Arogano Morato, the interior; Don Pedro de Mello Breyner, the affairs of the church and of justice; Don Sobral Hermano, finance; Don J. C. Saldanha, war. These appointments gave great satisfaction, as the above individuals were well known to entertain, some of them *liberal*, and the rest of them *moderate* opinions.

But the troubles of the regency were about to commence. On the night of 27th July, the 24th regiment of infantry stationed at Braganza, revolted, and put under arrest the bishop and governor of the town, and such of its officers as would not participate in its measures; but the rebels, learning that General Correa de Mello was marching against them, retired into Spain, their number being reduced to about 200. At their head was the Brigadier Viscount Monte-Alegre. On the 2d August, the oath to the constitution being tendered to the 17th regiment of infantry, stationed at Alemtejo, it also revolted, and passed into Spain with its arms and baggage, headed by the Brigadier Magessi, and accompanied by eighty soldiers of the 2d regiment of dragoons. Seditious movements took place in other corps, but were repressed by the energy of their commanders.

A decree of the regent appeared, consequent on these events, abolishing for ever the 24th and 17th regiments of foot, and 2d regiment of cavalry, as the chastisement of their rebellion; and directing that the officers and soldiers who had shared in that crime should be prosecuted with the utmost rigour, but offering pardon to those who should repent their offence, and present themselves within eight days before the authorities of Tras-os-Montes and Alemtejo, and claim the benefit of the amnesty. A few of the criminal soldiery availed themselves of the amnesty; but the advantage gained by their repentance was more than counterbalanced by the desertion of a great number of soldiers from corps, other than those which had revolted.

The princess regent, indignant at the open countenance and succour given by Spain to the Portuguese revolters and deserters, dispatched a letter to King Ferdinand, in which she complained that the governors on the Spanish frontier permitted entire regiments, in a state of rebellion against the established government of their country, to enter the Spanish territory, armed, and with their colours displayed. Ferdinand replied, that orders had been dispatched to the captains general of the frontier provinces, to disarm the revolters who had penetrated the Spanish territory; and beyond this the law of nations could not require him to proceed.

We may here observe, what will be very apparent in the sequel, that there existed a perfect understanding, as there must have been a correspondence, between the Portuguese faction of the queen mother and Don Miguel, and the Spanish monarch. The charter bestowed upon Portugal had very naturally produced a great sensation in Spain. It provoked the

Apostolical party, in several of the great towns, to commit the most atrocious outrages at the expense of those who had incurred their suspicion; and, at the same time, so elated and put in motion the constitutional spirit which still prevailed in the army, that large masses of troops deserted and marched into Portugal. Thus the extraordinary spectacle was exhibited of troops of two neighbouring kingdoms, swayed by political feelings diametrically opposite, and yet by a sentiment common to both—a dislike of the institutions of their own countries, taking refuge, at the same time, the one in the country of the other. The expense of maintaining the Portuguese rebels in the Spanish territory, and the other measures which Ferdinand latterly resorted to, so far exceeded his means, that it was vehemently suspected, and, indeed, we have no doubt of the fact, that he was secretly supported in his policy by pecuniary remittances from the Apostolical party in France, whether from the national treasury, or the contributions of private individuals, is very uncertain. That party had at least sufficient sagacity to comprehend a chain of causes, consisting of only two links. They could perceive, that were constitutional freedom fairly established in Portugal, despotism could not long survive in Spain: And already they had shown to the world their perfect conviction, that the establishment of freedom in Spain was utterly incompatible with the schemes which they meditated with regard to their own country. The French ambassador at Madrid so openly encouraged the Portuguese revolt, and so notoriously instigated Ferdinand to pursue a line of policy inimical to the Portuguese charter, that, to observe appearances of decency, his government thought proper to recall him; but it was remarked, upon his

return to Paris, that he seemed to enjoy high favour with his sovereign. Totally different was the conduct of the British ambassador, who, aware that the open encouragement and assistance given by Ferdinand to the Portuguese rebels, would, in the event of the latter invading their own country, constitute a case of aggression on the part of Spain, which his government was bound to repel, was unceasing in his remonstrances and protests against the conduct of Ferdinand.

The conduct of Ferdinand hitherto, masked as it was under deceitful appearances, had the effect of encouraging the counter-revolutionary party in Portugal, which was so far successful as to corrupt even the military police of the capital. On the 22d August, it was discovered that the cavalry corps of the police had favoured a scheme to subvert the government, and to proclaim Don Miguel the sovereign. It had been arranged by the conspirators, that in case they did not collect a sufficient force to accomplish their project, they were to proceed to Villa Franca, there to watch the movements of the capital and its garrison; and if they found their enterprise abortive, to follow the example of the revolted regiments, and retreat into Spain. The conspirators were arrested and disarmed; the officers among them were delivered over to the criminal courts; and most of the soldiers were embarked for the Azores. The garrison of Lisbon and its population displayed very considerable spirit in quelling this conspiracy. In a proclamation regarding it, which was issued on the spur of the moment, by the Princess Regent, she affirmed, without any circumlocution, that the Spanish government had promised the rebels of *Tras-os-Montes* decisive support.

About this time the appointment

to the office of Intendant General of Police of Don Arriago da Silveira having given great offence to the constitutional party, he was superseded by de Bastos, corregidor of Oporto. At same time, by another decree, the press, which now teemed with journals and pamphlets, was subjected to a censorship, composed of two censors to be appointed by the *disembargo de paco*, the body by whom the municipal government is conducted.

Soon afterwards, a decree appeared regulating all that related to the elections under the charter. It assigned one deputy for every 25,000 inhabitants, which gave in all 188 deputies, of whom 120 were for Portugal, 11 for the islands, and 7 for Africa and Asia; and decided that the elections should be conducted by ballot.

The results of the elections, which terminated on 8th October, gave a great preponderance in the Cortes to the constitutional party, the far greater part of those returned having been members of the Cortes of 1820.

In the meantime, desertions into Spain continued to an alarming degree, notwithstanding a decree of 23d September, which directed the authorities of towns and villages to ascertain those, whether military or ecclesiastic, who had emigrated, and to place their estates and benefices under sequestration. What tended much to extend the spirit of disaffection, was a report widely circulated, and apparently not without foundation, that Don Miguel had refused to take the oath to the charter. The queen-mother, too, was not idle in gaining partizans to the cause of herself and Don Miguel. By an unaccountable error in policy, the new government, instead of sending this mischievous personage out of the

country to Brazil, or elsewhere, kept her at the palace of Queluz, in a state of loose and honourable confinement. It was soon discovered that the military detachment stationed at Queluz had been corrupted by secret largesses of money, and were deeply imbued with counter-revolutionary principles. This determined the government to withdraw these troops from the palace, and to supply their place with a guard of militia, consisting of merchants.

About this time the flames of rebellion were kindled at both extremities of the kingdom. The garrison of Almeida deserted *en masse*, and took refuge in Spain; and on 5th October, a new insurrection was excited in the town of Villa Real, in Tras-os-Montes, by Chaves. The insurgents consisted of 300 or 400 peasants, and officers and soldiers of various corps, who attempted to seduce the garrison, by raising seditious cries; but the troops, faithful to their duty, charged and dispersed them. Chaves himself gained the mountains, and arrived at Orense with his family and only six attendants.

Another and more formidable insurrection broke out at Villa-Real-San-Antonio, in the Algarves. The 14th regiment of infantry and a company of the 4th chasseurs, at the instigation of the commandant of the place, Martinez Mestre, who had been an associate of the Count Amarant in 1823, hoisted the flag of rebellion, and took possession of the town of Tavira, where they established a provisional government in the name of Don Miguel, whom they proclaimed king, under the regency of his mother. At the head of this government was placed a magistrate of the name of Mascarenhas, a deputy to the Cortes. The rebels then marched upon Faro, the capital of

the Algarves, which was evacuated by Count Alva, the governor of the province, upon their approach.

When the news of these revolts reached Lisbon, the ministers displayed much vigour and energy. They instantly resolved to employ the garrison of that capital, with the exception of one regiment, against the rebels, and to commit the tranquillity of the city to its people and militia, whose general spirit was excellent. A part of the garrison was embarked in two frigates, to be conveyed to Lagos in the Algarves; another part was formed into a division of operation, to consist, with the reinforcements it was to receive on its route, of two divisions of infantry, and one of cavalry and artillery, to be commanded by Saldanha, the minister of war, who had charge of the whole expedition. A number of officers of all grades, who had been discharged the service when the counter-revolution of 1823 succeeded, were restored to their ranks; but an offer made to organize a battalion of the emigrant Spaniards, to be employed against the enemy, was rejected, probably from a dread of coming to an open rupture with the Spanish government. The fleet, with the troops on board, arrived safely at Lagos; while the division of operation arrived by forced marches in the same neighbourhood, and was joined by Count Alva, who had re-assembled several companies of the line and of militia. The rebels, who had been disappointed in not being joined by the peasantry, determined to retreat before the advancing constitutional forces, and defer their enterprise till another time. After distributing their seditious placards about the country, they evacuated the town and castle of Faro upon 16th October, and retired upon Tavira, which they also abandoned on

the 20th. Their only point of retreat now was across the mouth of the Guidiana, where they embarked for Ayamont with such precipitation, being pursued by the constitutionalists, that many were drowned in throwing themselves into the boats. Three hundred of the rebels had surrendered to the Count Alva at Tavira; they who escaped into Spain were disarmed, but liberally supplied with rations.

The whole province being now pacified, the militia of Algarves and Alentejo, who had signalized their zeal for the charter in this brief campaign, were dismissed; and the troops returned to Lisbon with Saldanha, the minister of war, who gained great popularity by the success of his expedition. The news of that success diffused great joy throughout the capital, which, however, was damped by the intelligence of a battalion of the 7th chasseurs, stationed at Villa-Franca, near Villa-Real, having, on 21st October, also revolted and fled into Spain.

During the absence of the army, Lisbon had been extremely agitated by the circumstance of the British Vice-Admiral, Lord Beauclerk, who commanded in the Tagus, having, upon the requisition of the Princess Regent, directed a battalion of his marines to mount guard at the palace of Ajuda, and put his ships in readiness to prevent an attack, which it was apprehended would be made upon the royal family. Whether there was any ground for such apprehension is uncertain; but it is not unlikely that it was excited in the mind of her royal highness by some concealed Miguelites, who wished to make her distrustful of the loyalty of the people.

The negotiations between the courts of Lisbon and Madrid, about this time took a turn decidedly hos-

tile. They mutually upbraided each other with permitting the insurgent troops of the one to enter the territory of the other, with a design to levy war against their lawful government. Betwixt opinions and interests so very conflicting, a war seemed all but inevitable; but, at length, by the influence of the British and other foreign ambassadors at the court of Madrid, a convention was entered into by the two powers, by which it was agreed, that either receiving deserters from the other's territory, should deprive them of their horses and arms, and compel them to retire into the interior. On the part of Portugal the terms of this convention were faithfully observed; but, on the part of Spain, they were evaded with the most scandalous openness, notwithstanding the repeated remonstrances and protests of the Portuguese and British ambassadors.

In the meantime, the new government seemed to derive some stability from the circumstance of Don Miguel having at length, on the 4th October, at Vienna, taken the oath to the constitution; to which, it was believed, he had been urged by the friendly counsel of the Emperor of Austria. Copies of the oath, as taken by the prince, and in his own handwriting, were transmitted to the Portuguese and Brazilian ministers at the court of Vienna. At the same time, a dispensation was obtained from the Pope, for the celebration of the betrothal of the prince and the young Queen Maria da Gloria. The ceremony of the betrothal afterwards took place (29th), her majesty the queen being represented, in virtue of special powers for that purpose, by the Brazilian minister.

On 30th October, the ceremony of installing the Cortes was conducted with great pomp in the hall of the palace of Ajuda. The princess re-

gent having arrived with a numerous cortège, ascended the throne, and delivered, to the assembled peers and deputies, a speech, in which she alluded to the ancient constitution of the kingdom, which was that of a limited monarchy; and stated that, at a later period, the king had extended to the commons that share in the representation which a barbarous age had refused them; that this system, not being based on fixed laws, fell into disuse; that its restoration was projected by her father, and had been happily accomplished by her brother, the Emperor of Brazil. The prudence and justice of the government, she observed, had diminished the alarms of Spain; she calculated upon the *decisive support* of one European state, bound to her by the faith of treaties (meaning Britain), and upon the good will and fraternal reciprocity of others. She informed the Cortes of Don Miguel having taken the oath to the constitution; and, finally, called on them to continue their efforts to give Portugal the full benefit of the institutions she possessed.

The Duke de Cadaval, President of the Chamber of Peers, then received the oath to the constitution, taken of new by the princess regent; after which her royal highness retired.

In the first of their sittings, the Chamber of Deputies were occupied, in terms of the charter, with preparing a list of five of its members, out of which the executive might select one for the office of their president. At the head of their list stood the Bishop of Coimbra, deputy for the province of Minho, for whom no fewer than 71 out of 83 had voted. Her royal highness was pleased to confer the presidency upon that prelate, with a pension of 6000 crusadoes, and the vice-presidency upon M.

Guerreiro, who had resigned the portefeuille of justice to M. de Mello-Breyner.

Among other propositions submitted to the Chamber of Deputies, at an early period, were the following, by M. Pereiro da Carmo: "That by an act, to be subscribed by the whole members of the Cortes, Don Pedro IV. should be proclaimed King of Portugal and Algarve: That a monument should be erected to that prince, having the inscription, 'To the Restorer of the public Liberties.'" The first of these propositions involved a question at once delicate and difficult. Don Pedro had resigned the crown in favour of the princess his daughter; and though he had done so conditionally, the time had not arrived for fulfilling the conditions; and it was only in the event of their non-fulfilment at the proper period, that he was entitled to resume the right he had abdicated. The first proposition was put to the vote and rejected; the other was adopted unanimously.

On 7th November, a communication was made to the Chamber by the minister of finance to the effect, that there would be a deficiency in the revenue for the incoming year of 2,300,000 reis; but he hoped that, without adding to taxation, he would be enabled to make good the deficiency by a loan to be raised upon the sum (2,000,000/ sterling), which, by the treaty between the two countries, Brazil was bound to pay to Portugal.

In the sitting of 23th November, there came to be discussed the project of a law proposed by M. Guerreiro, having for its object to declare guilty of high treason all Portuguese who should retire to Spain, and re-enter the country with arms in their hands. It will appear in the sequel, that the impunity which was invari-

bly extended to the defeated rebels, and the non-enactment of such a law as that proposed by Guerreiro, were the grand errors committed by the new government. They indicated a large infusion of anti-constitutional spirit, and of fears for the stability of the charter in both the Chambers and the cabinet; and were the forerunners of that revolution in the sentiments and conduct of the regency which eventually took place. The proposition by Guerreiro was got rid of by the minister for foreign affairs presenting himself, and asking leave to make certain communications in a secret sitting. These communications were understood to relate to new invasions meditated by the Portuguese rebels, and to the necessity there would be of applying to the British government for aid, in virtue of existing treaties.

While the Portuguese executive affected to repose confidence in the promises of neutrality made by Spain, it received the most alarming accounts of new desertions into that country; and though, by order of the Spanish ministers, the rebels were disarmed upon their arrival, open protection was afforded, and provisions, money, arms, and all the munitions of war, were liberally furnished to the rebels, who had a number of divisions in Galicia, upon the frontiers of Portugal. The principal of these divisions, consisting of 5000 men, exclusive of peasants and Spanish royalist volunteers who had joined them, was commanded by Chaves, whose head-quarters were at Zamora, and was afterwards reinforced by the rebels who had been cantoned at Salamanca and Beneventum. Magessa commanded another division, and had his head-quarters at Badajos.

About the middle of December, Chaves' division marched across the Spanish territory, as if it had been

the country of an ally, with all the pomp of war, and burst into Tras-os-montes, where it was joined by large masses of peasantry. The constitutional generals, Stubbs, Azaredo, and Claudino, lost no time in concentrating their forces, and establishing their communications. The garrison of Braganza having evacuated that place, in dread of an attack from a division of the rebels stationed at Sanabria, Colonel Valdez arrived with a reinforcement of 600 men, and on the 23d encountered the rebels. The conflict was obstinate, and caused a severe loss on both sides; but at length the constitutionalists re-entered Braganza, where they soon found themselves invested by the entire insurrectionary force, and, on the 25th, were compelled to surrender the place. By the terms of the capitulation, the common soldiers were *pardoned*; but their chiefs and the constitutional inhabitants of the place were to be retained prisoners of war in the fort, "as the means of saving their lives from the outrages of the people."

After this conquest, one party of the rebels advanced upon the town of Chaves, and another upon Villareal, where the Marquis de Chaves gave the signal of insurrection; after which these two divisions re-united, and directed their march upon Oporto, which was thrown into the most violent alarm, especially by a knowledge of the excesses to which the rebels addicted themselves. But Generals Stubbs, the governor of that place, Claudino, Mello, and Azaredo, disputed every inch of ground with the rebels, and succeeded in maintaining their positions. They were even so successful as to push detachments into Tras-os-Montes and Beira; where, though uniformly successful in their encounters with the rebels, they sustained very severe losses.

In the meantime, the division of re-

bels under Magessi, consisting of 2000 men, well armed and equipped, was put in motion. It set out from Badajos, having been preceded by a number of inflammatory proclamations, entered Alemtejo, and arrived on 26th November at Villaviciosa, which it carried without resistance, and took prisoners a detachment of the 7th regiment of cavalry. This was the only notable exploit it was destined to perform. Count Villafior, governor of Alemtejo, having assembled a body of troops, forced Magessi to recross the Guidiana. Having passed some days at Mora, Magessi next made an unsuccessful attempt upon Algarve, and then, despairing of accomplishing anything with his own force, he turned northward and joined the commander in chief, the Marquis de Chaves.

This double enterprise of the insurgents threw the constitutional party into the greatest dismay. The country, besides, was on the eve of a war with Spain. The Count Villareal, the Portuguese ambassador at Madrid, had returned to Lisbon, having found all his remonstrances unavailing, and incensed by the duplicity of the Spanish king and his ministers. On his return, it was intimated to the Spanish ambassador at Lisbon, that the regency had ceased to have any communication with him; and that the usual relations between the two powers were suspended, until the Spanish government made satisfaction for the countenance and encouragement it had given to the rebels.

On 4th December, the minister for foreign affairs made a report to both Chambers on the state of the nation. In this report he detailed, at great length, the various events which had occurred since the establishment of the charter, and dwelt upon the inimical spirit of Spain, as displayed by various proceedings on her part. He con-

cluded by attributing the troubles and dangers to which the government was exposed, 1st, to the instigations of Portuguese rebels, particularly the Count Canellas, the Marquis de Chaves, the Viscount Montealegre, Magessi, and others; 2d, to the apostolic junto which had long ruled the Spanish government, and had its ramifications in Portugal; and, 3d, to the machinations of the Marquis de Moustier, the French ambassador to Spain, though he, the minister, did not wish to confront him with the government he represented. Along with this report there were submitted a variety of documents relative to the insurrection, and the manœuvres which had been employed to precipitate Portugal and Spain into a war.

When the minister had concluded his report in the Chamber of Peers, the Chamber was addressed by Count Villareal, who entered upon an interesting explanation of his negotiation with Spain for the recognition by that power of the legitimacy of the Portuguese charter. In his speech he drew a vivid picture of the perfidy of Ferdinand and his ministers, in the encouragement and entertainment given, if not directly by them, indirectly, and by their connivance, to the Portuguese rebels, and of the impossibility of his obtaining satisfaction or redress, though his endeavours were energetically seconded by those of the British ambassador, who had even gone so far as threaten to quit Madrid, if satisfaction were not given. He stated, that though the ambassadors of Russia and Prussia, to the court of Madrid had, in the names of their respective sovereigns, recognised the legitimacy of his government, he had failed in all his attempts to procure a similar recognition from the French ambassador in the name of his.

The Count Linhares having demanded information from the mini-

ster of the means of defence which the government possessed against the invasion of the rebels, the minister replied, that the army was in a state of disorganization, and that there would be a necessity of having recourse to the militia, and also to the employment of guerillas; but that government had demanded from Britain an auxiliary force. This announcement made a deep impression; and it was voted that there should be printed an address to the nation upon its present crisis.

The minister for the interior proposed three laws:—1st, For suspending, for three months, all individual guarantees for the liberty of the subject; 2d, For authorizing the executive to suspend judges from their offices, without the formalities required by the charter; 3d, For forming in all cities, towns, and villages volunteer corps for the defence of public tranquillity, and the charter. These propositions were adopted.

M. Leonil proposed to declare the country to be in danger, and the sittings of the Chamber permanent; to suppress all judicial formalities with regard to the trial of the enemies of the constitution; and to direct the immediate arrest of all civil, ecclesiastic, and military functionaries in communication with the rebels. These propositions were referred to special committees.

The ministers of the regency, with the exception of Saldanha, had become extremely unpopular; and, harassed by the perpetual attacks made upon them by the public journals, the ministers of justice, the interior, and marine, gave in their resignations, and were replaced, the first by Don Louis de Mauro Cabral, the second by the Bishop of Viseu, and the third by Don Manuel de Noronha. The ministers for foreign affairs and finance wished also to resign, from

the same motive, but were prevailed on by the regent to temporarily remain in office.

On 19th December, an important communication was made to the two Chambers, in name of the princess regent. Its import was, that the more effectually to combat the hostile invasion of the realm, her royal highness had demanded from Great Britain the accomplishment of the treaties which existed between the two countries; that the British government, cognizant of the condition of Portugal, had resolved on the fulfilment of these treaties; that the zeal and activity with which that government and parliament had adopted that measure, were above all eulogy; that Great Britain had declared, that she would not confine her assistance to the succours already on their way, (estimated by her royal highness at 10,000 men,) but would afford all the assistance which Portugal stood in need of; that the arrival of the infantry might be daily expected; and that the cavalry and artillery would arrive in the course of six or ten days.

This communication was received with great applause; after which the Chambers proceeded to authorize a loan of 2000 contos de reis, and to settle the civil list; after which the first session of the Cortes was declared to be closed.

In the meantime, the insurgent chief Chaves, having completely counter-revolutionized the province of Tras-os-Montes, invaded the province between the Douro and Minho, and again threatened Oporto, while Magessi succeeded in promoting insurrection in Alemtejo and Algarve. The two then prepared to advance upon the capital. Chaves was so far successful that he took Braganza, Chaves, Villareal, and chased the constitutionalists from the whole of

Tras-os-Montes, with the exception of a few fortified points, such as Almeida. Having passed the Douro, by the way of Lamego, he established a new regency, in the name of Don Miguel, composed of himself as president, the Viscount Montealegre, the Viscount Villa Garcia, and Don Gaetano de Mello. But having, on 14th December, attempted to pass the Tamego, in order to approach Oporto, he was vigorously repulsed by the constitutionalists under Claudino.

The operations of Magessi in the south-east were less fortunate. That chief entered Villaviciosa on 26th November without resistance; his advanced guard was attacked on 7th December by the Count Villafior, who took a number of prisoners, both soldiers and guerillas, and forced the whole division to again re-pass the Guidiana. Magessi next made a flank movement upon San-Antonio, in the direction of Montforte; then advanced upon Pontalegre, where he was beaten, and forced to throw himself into Spain. There, having received reinforcements, he re-entered Portugal by the province of Beira, while Chaves penetrated the kingdom from the north.

This was the most brilliant period of the insurrection. Almeida, which had been almost dismantled by the French, under Massena, in their retreat from Portugal, was taken by the rebels on 20th December. From Lamego, the seat of the regency, Chaves moved towards Viseu, which opened its gates to him. He menaced Coimbra, the students in the university of which declared for him; but their seditious movements were suppressed by Generals Claudino and Azaredo. Many regiments of militia passed over to the rebels, and the whole province of Beira was prepared for revolt; but a division under

the Count Villalor, which had followed in the footsteps of Magessi, suddenly arrived, and dispersed a large body of guerillas, who had assembled at Penamacor. At length, Chaves, alarmed at the approaching debarkation of British troops, abandoned his project against Lisbon, and retired to the right of the Mondego, and, abandoning the whole country around Viseu and Lamego, he withdrew his forces into Tras-os-Montes, and the east portion of Beira, bordering upon Spain, with which country he secured his communications.

Such was the position of affairs when, at the end of the year, the first portion of the British expedition landed at Lisbon, and was received by the people with every demonstration of gratitude and welcome; the rest immediately followed.

It was evident to the most ordinary observers, that the situation in which Great Britain and France were respectively placed with regard to the two peninsular kingdoms, might very naturally resolve into a general war, involving the whole states of Europe. It was certain that Britain would not long content herself with defending Portugal against invasions from Spain, should the policy of the Spanish government remain unaltered; but that it might be necessitated to carry the war into that country, and, by offensive operations, compel its sovereign into indemnity for the past and security for the future. It was equally clear, that the subversion of the Portuguese charter was as much the scheme of the court party of France as of the Spanish cabinet; and that party was extremely incensed by certain reflections which had been cast by Mr Canning, in the British House of Commons, upon the invasion and occupation of Spain by a French army. It was no doubt possible, and

probable, that the French cabinet might ostensibly acquiesce in the defence of Portugal by British troops; but it was more than doubtful whether it would consent that Ferdinand should receive from the hands of Britain that chastisement which might be found necessary to stay him in his frantic course, and reduce him to reason and a sense of justice. It farther obviously appeared, that not only had Britain determined to defend Portugal, but was prepared to contest with all Europe the claim which any state, or combination of states, might set up to restrain the exercise by a sovereign prince of his legitimate powers in favour of free institutions—such an exercise of power as that by which Don Pedro had conferred a charter upon his Portuguese subjects. The Holy Alliance had, in truth, set up such a claim, and enforced it. It had, in many instances, trenchanted upon the sovereign rights of the smaller states, by preventing certain political ameliorations which they had been anxious to adopt. It was not unlikely, therefore, that in the event of a rupture between Britain and France, the powers composing the alliance might, in defence of their own principles, take a side with the latter, while the lesser powers would naturally be disposed to espouse the cause of the former. Mr Canning, in his speech in the House of Commons, when moving an address in reply to his Majesty's message regarding the affairs of Portugal, appears to have considered a general war far from improbable; for, in reckoning up the resources of this country, he included, "the tremendous power," which she would possess in "all the restless and discontented spirits of other countries," which, in the event of a war, would rush to her banner. War, then, if it did break out, might become a war of opinion, as

extensive and sanguinary as the one which had preceded it; and with the near prospect of such a war, the public mind throughout Europe was violently agitated.

The session of the French Chambers for 1826, like that of the British Parliament, opened towards the close of the preceding year, namely, on 12th December. The King's speech was sufficiently pacific. After mentioning that his Majesty continued to receive from all foreign governments the assurance of the most amicable dispositions, and the most conformable to his own sentiments for the maintenance of peace, it proceeded to observe, "Troubles have recently broke out in a part of the Peninsula. I shall unite my efforts to those of my allies to put an end to them, and to prevent their consequences. The hopes of peace which the speech inspired were still farther

heightened by a speech of the minister for foreign affairs, addressed to the Chamber of Peers, in which he vindicated, in the fullest manner, the conduct of our government; and strongly censured and even menaced the government of Spain. Still there prevailed a strong suspicion of the sincerity of the French cabinet in the avowals it made of the policy which it meant to observe; and it was observed of the minister's speech particularly, that it enunciated no principle which would tie it down to neutrality, in the event of Britain commencing operations against Spain; that, on the contrary, it contained expressions which could only be construed into hints that should Spain be attacked, France would interfere for her protection. We must defer a closer consideration of these documents for a future volume.

CHAPTER X.

The German Confederation.—Austria.—Hungary.—Prussia.—Bavaria.—Denmark.—Sweden.—The Netherlands.

THE Diet of the German Confederation resumed its sittings on 26th January, under the presidency of M. de Nagler, the Prussian minister, when the long-agitated question of the navigation of the Rhine came under its consideration. But, owing to the conflicting interests involved in the question, the Diet could come to no decision regarding it. Having disposed of a few other matters of little importance, the Diet adjourned on 4th August. Subsequent to this adjournment, conferences were opened at the palace of Joannisburgh, the seat of Prince Metternich, which were attended by the president of the Diet, and the ministers of the great powers, and continued six weeks. The nature of the discussions which took place has never publicly transpired; only it is known that the question of the navigation of the Rhine was again brought upon the tapis, but nothing definitive arranged with regard to it.

However harsh and unfeeling may be the treatment by the Austrian Emperor of his Italian subjects, he appears to possess, in a high degree, the love and esteem of the people of his hereditary dominions. Of this, a striking proof was exhibited in the univer-

sal grief which seized them in March, upon its being known that he was so dangerously ill of an inflammatory fever, that his life was despaired of, and in the extravagant joy to which they yielded, when his recovery was announced.

In June, the Emperor and Empress paid a visit to the King and Queen of Bavaria, who were then residing at Lambach. It was declared by the official journals that their journey had only pleasure for its object. In September, another circumstance occurred, which gave rise to many conjectures. About the time that the ceremony of the Russian Emperor's coronation took place, and while the war between Russia and Persia, and the conferences at Ackermann were still in dependence, a congress was formed at Vienna of the whole members of the Imperial family, including the cadet branches of Tuscany and Modena. The ostensible object of it was to regulate the succession to the various domains belonging to the family, in the event of the decease of the emperor. The meeting of the congress was, on account of a contagious disease which had appeared in the family of the Archduke Charles, deferred till the beginning of October, when it assembled; and at its sittings, Prince Met-

ternich figured as chancellor of the august house—a circumstance which gave to it a character of importance. What were its deliberations or its resolves, were concealed from the knowledge of the public.

On 7th August, a decree was issued by the government, which prohibited its subjects, under the severest penalties, from engaging in the slave trade, (the trade in negroes,) and provided for the protection of slaves against ill treatment. Such a provision will appear very supererogatory, when it is considered that Austria has no possessions in which negro slavery prevails.

The Diet of Hungary continued its sittings. On 20th January, it voted a representation to the Emperor, in which it thanked him for the explanation he had been graciously pleased to give of his message of 9th November; but demanded, that, for the purpose of tranquillizing all doubts and fears, his majesty should give the Diet certain assurances regarding the rights of the realm, to be incorporated with the code of laws, which then would form an "eternal monument." In this representation, the Diet also observed with grief, that his majesty had not touched upon the right which it claimed with regard to contributions, nor upon its complaints respecting sums which had been illegally exacted, nor upon the right of the Diet to fix the quota of imposts to be levied from one session to another, as also the amount of recruits which the kingdom was bound to furnish. It concluded by praying his majesty to permit the publication of the laws and acts of the session in Hungarian as well as in Latin.

An imperial resolution upon the above representation of the Diet, was adopted and signed upon 9th April. In this document his majesty obser-

ved, that with regard to contributions, he recognised the principle laid down by the Diet, but absolutely refused its demand relative to sums which had been levied without its consent in the interval of two sessions, on account of the necessity there was of continuing the annual payment of the contribution, without which the safety of the state could not have been maintained. With regard to the periodical convention of the Diet, he conceded that it should be convened every three years, but denied the right of one Diet to fix a date for the convention of that which was to succeed it—that being one of the rights of the crown. And lastly, his majesty willed that the acts of the Diet should be recorded both in the Hungarian and Latin languages, but that the Latin text alone should be regarded as the authentic one.

The two Chambers of the Diet had hitherto cordially concurred in all measures; but at length dissensions between them sprung up respecting the question, whether the lands belonging to the nobility in the occupation of boors, should be subject to the contribution. Ultimately, in the sitting of 9th August, it was decided that all such lands should be subjected to the land-tax and the conscription, but that the nobility, who had not previously paid contribution for such lands, should be exempted from payment during their lifetimes.

After many remonstrances to the emperor on the subject of the repayment of sums which had been illegally levied, to which remonstrances his majesty would by no means yield, the Diet at length consented to fix the land tax as it stood in 1791, but without deciding as to arrears.

Among other measures resolved on by the Diet, indicative of a dislike of Austrian rule, was a decree authorizing the erection of a Hungarian uni-

versity, an institution much disliked by the court, as it contributed to maintain national distinctions between the two countries. The Diet also demanded from the emperor, that, in terms of his coronation oath, the ancient dependencies of the kingdom, and those recently acquired, such as Dalmatia and Gallicia, should be incorporated with it, so that it might possess the political consideration which was its due. Harassed by its incessant demands, his majesty invited the Diet to designate, within the space of a month, the whole subjects, the discussion of which, in the course of that session, it conceived to be indispensable. The Diet replied by new statements of grievances and new demands. It demanded that, according to ancient usages, the sovereign should reside four months every year in the Hungarian capital; that the royal commissioners, not citizens of Hungary, who had acted illegally in the administration of public affairs, should be punished; and that no one should be appointed to office, without his taking an oath of fidelity to the king, and of obedience to the laws. It also reiterated its demands, that the periods for convoking the diet should be fixed; and that all the monies illegally levied from Hungary by Austrian commissioners, should be faithfully refunded.

Towards the end of the year, most of the differences between the Diet and the Court of Vienna, were happily composed by the mediation of the Archduke Palatine; and the Diet, having already decided the amount of the current contribution, engaged to pay for all arrears, the sum of forty millions of florins, by instalments.

The most important event that occurred this year in the history of Prussia, was the decision of the su-

preme court of law upon the conduct of various individuals charged with being connected with secret associations. The commission of Mayence had previously, after much research, declared that there existed throughout Germany, a variety of secret associations, mysteriously connected, and having in view the regeneration of Germany. But it was evident to all men of sense that that commission must have greatly exaggerated the extent of these societies, their means, and the criminality of their designs, though it was admitted on all hands that such societies existed, and that they aimed at the subversion of the established order of things. On 25th March, the supreme court pronounced its judgment upon twenty-eight members of these associations, who were imprisoned at Copenick. Eleven of them—the governor of a gymnasium, two referendaries of the tribunals, a teacher, four candidates for public instruction, and three students, were condemned to five years' imprisonment in a fortress; an auditor of justice, and a candidate for public instruction, were condemned to three years similar imprisonment; a landed proprietor and a student to ten years imprisonment; and twelve other individuals to terms of imprisonment, varying from one to eleven years. They were also deprived of the right to wear any national decoration; and those of them in the public employment were declared to have forfeited their places, and to be for ever incapable of being reinstated.

This year Prussia was much agitated by religious disputes. Some sects, aiming at a prefectibility in religion, became absolutely mystical, and propagated the most extravagant heresies, particularly respecting predestination and grace. To check the growing folly, the minister of

public instruction addressed a circular to the professors of colleges, directors of academies, and parish priests, in which he severely rebuked such of them as had countenanced, or neglected to discourage the heresies in question. A considerable sensation was about the same time produced by the publication of a letter addressed by the king to his natural sister, the reigning Duchess of Anholt Koethen, reproaching her on account of her having embraced the Catholic faith. It was a truly sensible, orthodox, and every way edifying letter. For the apostasy of the duchess, the Protestant part of the community was consoled by the conversion of the Princess de Liegnitz, the king's consort, from the Catholic to the Reformed faith; a change which, the court gazette took care to inform the public, proceeded from her own free and sincere conviction.

A number of measures were adopted by government, calculated to give a homogeneity to the institutions and manners of the different states composing the monarchy. In 1818, the king had decreed the introduction of the Prussian code of laws into the Rhenish provinces, but reserving all rights and peculiar customs compatible with that code, and leaving it to the provincial states to point out the modifications in that code, and those customs which were necessary, or might be of advantage to the public. His majesty, at same time, confided the discussion of those modifications to a commission, nominated by himself, and consisting partly of two deputies of the first order, one deputy for the towns, and one for the communes of the provincial assembly. The labours of that commission were submitted to the provincial assembly, which was opened at Dusseldorf on 29th October.

The Prussian code, of course, be-

came the great subject of discussion. Addresses were presented from a number of the municipalities, particularly that of Cologne, bitterly complaining of the imperfections of that code, both in matters civil and criminal, which gave rise to very animated debates. Some members of the equestrian order objected to the addresses being read, as being nothing less than disloyal; but most of the deputies for towns and communes contended against that opinion. At length, the whole question was put to the vote, on 21st and 22d December, when various propositions, the effect of which was to ameliorate the administration of justice, were carried by a great majority. The most important of these propositions were, that the proceedings in courts, both civil and criminal, should be conducted *visa voce* and publicly; that the tribunals of commerce should be maintained; that juries should be instituted under a perfect form; that the institution of justices of the peace should be maintained; and that all taxes on the administration of justice should be suppressed.

These propositions as voted, were carried to the foot of the throne by deputies of the four orders composing the Assembly; and were attended with a result favourable to the views of the majority of its members.

Most of the other states of Germany had this year their legislative Diets; but at none of them was there any question involving a public principle, or of the least interest to foreigners, decided upon or even debated. Bavaria, in particular, appeared to advance steadily in the career of economy and constitutional improvement; while the King afforded to his subjects and the whole world a proof of his liberal spirit, by remitting upwards of 100,000 florins

for the support of the Greeks, and the redemption of their families from slavery.

This year the court of Denmark concluded treaties of navigation and commerce upon the principles of reciprocity, with Sweden, and also the United States of America.

On 18th March, a similar treaty, and upon the same principles, was concluded between Sweden and Great Britain. The former power, at same time, removed the previous prohibitions of the importation of rum, brandies, &c., lessened the import duties upon other articles, and totally abolished those upon foreign books.

An event occurred, which was auspicious to the reigning dynasty of Sweden. On 3d May, the Princess Regent was delivered of an heir to the throne, who, on his birth, received the title of Duke of Scandinavia. The event was celebrated with great rejoicings. Afterwards the Swedish court received intelligence of the demise of the ex-Queen Frederica Wilhelmina Dorothea, who expired at Lausanne, on 25th September, after a long and severe illness, and after a separation from her husband of fourteen years. Her remains were interred in the family cemetery at Baden. The court put itself into five days' mourning on the occasion.

We now come to treat of the affairs of the Netherlands. On 25th March, the Chambers were closed by a speech in name of his majesty, in which he expressed his high satisfaction with the result of their labours. Previously to this, the legislature had approved of the budget submitted to it by the legislature; and made several changes in the duties upon imports and exports, which were deemed favourable to commerce.

The king continued to display no little resolution in maintaining his prerogative, and the tranquillity of the kingdom against the arts of the Catholic priesthood. At the same time, he permitted, by a decree, the publication of a Papal bull, by which, on certain conditions, the benefit of the jubilee was extended to all Roman Catholics who did not attend it in person; but in the decree, his Majesty declared, that his sanctioning the publication of the bull should not be construed into an approval of any expressions in it, which could be held as derogating from his royal rights, the rights of his kingdom, or the law of equal toleration which there prevailed.

About the same time, the direction of the affairs of the Catholic Church was suppressed, and the functions of the office merged in those of the minister for the interior. This measure greatly mortified the Catholics. The estates of Southern Brabant voted an address to the king, in which they prayed him to re-establish the small seminaries, and to grant that the students who were destined for ecclesiastic offices might not be compelled to attend the Philosophical College of Louvain before entering the seminaries. In answer to that address, the king declared his firm determination to enforce his decree of June 14, 1825.

In the course of the summer, an epidemic bilious fever broke out in the provinces of Groningen and Friesland, and along the whole coast of the North Sea. It attacked nearly three-fourths of the whole population; and vast numbers became the victims of it. The misery it occasioned surpassed all belief. The government, as well as private individuals, contributed liberally towards the relief of the sufferers. The malady did not subside until the setting in of the frosts.

On 16th October, the States-General were opened at Brussels by the king in person, who was pleased to nominate, as president of the second Chamber, M. Reyphius, who was the first candidate on the list, and selected from the ranks of the constitutional opposition.

On the 20th, the annual budget for 1827 was presented to the second Chamber by the minister of the interior. It amounted to 21,070,409 florins, and exceeded that of 1826 by 987,926 florins. In the department of the interior, there was an increase of 2,100,000 florins, which was partly designed for the construction of a number of maritime works, and facilitating the navigation of the Rhine, and part of which, 500,000 florins, was meant for the support of the Catholic Church in the southern provinces.

After long discussions, which continued till 23d December, the Chamber adopted the project of a law, which appropriated for 1827, 2,400,000 florins to the redemption of the public debt; but the project which was to fix the expenses was rejected by 77 votes opposed to 23 votes. When this result was made known, his Majesty, by a message, requested the Chamber to take the first project into farther consideration, and withdrew the other. He then replaced both by a new project, which authorized his government to collect taxes, and continue the expenditure on the footing

on which both had been placed by the budget for 1826; and that for the first half of the year 1827. This provisional measure was agreed to, without opposition, by both Chambers.

The news received from Java was both distressing and alarming. The new governor, Viscount Dabus de Gisignies, who had sailed for that colony with fresh troops, had hoped to appease the insurgent natives, by introducing an improved system of government; but was completely disappointed. The insurgents continued to devastate the territory belonging to the Dutch, and compelled them to fortify themselves in several positions. A number of petty conflicts took place in August and September, attended with no results but the loss of lives; but, about the beginning of October, a battle upon a grand scale was fought between Solo and Samarang, the Dutch being commanded by General Van Green, and the Javans by their Palembang, Depo Negoro. The result was, according to the accounts received in Europe, that the Dutch army was almost annihilated, and the victorious general had advanced to the neighbourhood of Samarang. Whether these accounts are strictly correct, we have no means of determining; but that the affairs of the Dutch in Java were in a most critical state, was evident from the demand made by the government upon the States-General to have the army in that island reinforced.

CHAPTER XI.

Switzerland.—Rome.—Two Sicilies.

THE Swiss Diet assembled at Lucerne in the month of July, when it resumed the question which had been so long agitated regarding the propriety of establishing a peculiar police for the coercion of emigrant strangers, and also for restraining the liberty of the press, so that its labours might not be offensive to foreign powers. A variety of opinions were offered upon the question by the deputies of the different cantons; but as the discussion advanced, it was evident that the friends of liberal principles had gained ground; and, at length, it was agreed to adjourn the question until the succeeding Diet.

Before separating, the Diet took into consideration a variety of reports of commissions. One of these recommended a revision of the penal code, which the Diet approved of. Another communicated the basis of a preliminary treaty, entered into by the French ambassador and the commissioners of the Helvetic republic, for a convention between the two nations, reciprocally regulating the rights of settlement and domicile of the citizens of the one who might establish themselves in the territory of the other. The federal directory was charged by the Diet to transmit the preliminary treaty to the different cantons, who were recommended to make known their opinions of it before the 1st January.

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There was this year formed at Thoun, an encampment of the national federal army, consisting of seven battalions of infantry, four companies of dragoons, two companies of carabineers, and one company of artillerymen. After having been exercised for several days, and executing a number of grand manœuvres, the troops retired into their respective cantons.

The great Council of Lucerne, having been petitioned to permit the introduction into that city of the Protestant worship, determined, upon 29th December, by 52 votes against 39, to grant the permission applied for, reserving to the Council to grant at any time afterwards a still greater latitude of toleration.

The Pope of Rome busied himself exceedingly this year in fulminating bulls and edicts against the members of all secret societies whatever throughout the whole of Christendom, whom he denounced as guilty of high treason, and invoked all Christian princes to assist in their extirpation. These documents are chiefly remarkable, as proving the eager credulity of their author, and the vengeful spirit with which he was animated. They were displeasing to a party in the college of cardinals, who conceived them to have been dictated by that foreign influence which dominates over and oppresses Italy; to have

been meant to serve as an apology for the continued occupation of Naples by Austrian troops; and as likely to give offence to all constitutional governments.

In one instance, however, the Pontiff was pleased to make a display of common sense and of clemency. By an ordinance he reduced, by three-fourths, the punishments of about 300 persons, who had been condemned, in the provinces of Ravenna, Cesena, and Forlì, to imprisonment, for being implicated in seditious practices. The punishment of others who had been condemned for the same crime to not more than four years' imprisonment, he entirely remitted. Meantime, these provinces continued to be agitated by serious troubles. The cardinal legate, Rivarola, escaped assassination in a singular manner. A canon who was travelling in his suite, having been mistaken for the Cardinal himself, was fired at, and mortally wounded by a pistol shot. Upon receiving intelligence of this outrage, the Pope sent an extraordinary commission into the provinces. A number of arrests were made; but, notwithstanding, and though a reward of 10,000 pistoles was offered for the discovery of the assassins of the Cardinal, all the investigations of the commissioners turned out fruitless.

As if in contempt of the spirit of the age and of public opinion, the Pope re-erected the districts of Conca and Canemorto, in the Roman states, into perpetual fiefs, with civil and criminal jurisdiction, and the right of sanctuary. The first he bestowed upon the Inquisition; the other upon the Chapter of St Peter of the Vatican.

This year the dominions of the Neapolitan monarch were relieved of one part of the dead-weight which pressed so heavily upon them. On 9th

April, the Austrian troops which occupied Sicily, consisting of about 6000 men, under the command of General Count Lilienberg, were embarked in transports, and sailed, one division of them for Trieste and Venice, and the other for Naples, where they were safely landed. The place of the Austrians was supplied by 9000 national troops brought from the continent, who occupied different points of the island.

By a royal ordinance, dated 24th May, two Councils of State were established, one at Naples, and another at Palermo. Military commissions also were established in all the provinces for the summary trial and punishment of seditious persons, and persons connected with secret societies. As some of the commissions seemed to proceed reluctantly in their work of blood, or at least to have great difficulty in discovering victims, the King, on 18th September, issued a new ordinance for the purpose of stimulating their activity. There was a violent suspicion entertained at the time that these ordinances, as well as the bulls and edicts of the Pope, were at the instigation of Austria.

Such was the distracted state of the finances, that it was found necessary to impose new taxes, and to increase some of the old ones, especially the personal contribution or poll-tax, and the duties upon luxuries; by which it was thought the revenue would gain an addition of 400,000 dollars, and an equality be established between the receipt and expenditure. On the other hand, the King promised to the landed proprietors and farmers some material relief from the billeting of soldiers, by which he hoped to stifle the loud complaints that were made of the partial military occupation of the kingdom by the Austrians beyond the term fixed by the treaty of 28th April 1825.

CHAPTER XII.

Russia.

THE result of the insurrection, which unfortunately distinguished the accession of the Emperor Nicholas, must have convinced the most infatuated of the conspirators, that the Russian peasantry, and people generally, were indisposed to a radical change, and even not sufficiently ripe to look with favour upon any sensible improvement in their system of government. But the emperor conceived it prudent, under the circumstances, to adopt a number of ameliorating measures. He forwarded injunctions to all the provincial functionaries, to the effect of preventing abuses in the treatment of the boors, and protecting the rights of the poorer classes, and of expediting the decision of causes before the tribunals. He also established a particular section in the Imperial Chancery, to be under his own immediate surveillance, for the purpose of completing a new code of laws, and prescribed to the committee the term of two years for the fulfilment of its labours. He also remitted all arrears of taxes then due, which did not exceed 2000 rubles, and the discharge of all those imprisoned for debts due to the state, which did not exceed the above sum.

But, notwithstanding these and other benificent measures, the capi-

tal, and indeed the whole empire, was involved in the deepest gloom. The premature death of Alexander had given a severe shock to the feelings of the people; and there was scarcely a distinguished family in the empire, which had not reason to be seriously apprehensive, on account of some of its members, of the result of the labours of the commission which had been formed to investigate the recent conspiracy. In order to put an end to a state of apprehension on the part of the mass of the soldiery engaged in the revolt, the emperor adjudged that, of the two regiments of the guards, about 300 of the most guilty should be confined in fortresses, and the rest distributed among the troops of the line. But afterwards, on the occasion of a review, the emperor, at the intercession of the Archduke Michael, remitted even these lenient punishments; and, addressing the insurgent regiments, told them he would give them an opportunity of proving their courage and loyalty, by sending them as a reinforcement to the army of Georgia, which was engaged in subduing certain predatory and rebellious tribes, inhabiting Mount Caucasus; and that, in their absence, he himself would provide for their wives and families. This communication of his majesty's gra-

cious sentiments was received by the troops with shouts of gratitude and applause.

An official statement was published by government, from which it appeared, that, since 1823, there had been a gradual diminution of the national expenditure to the amount of no less than 168,300,000 rubles; and that in the course of these three years, there had been no new loan whatever.

Another very important document appeared about this period. It was an official report upon the military colonies, by the governor of these colonies, Count Arackschejeff. It appeared from it, that the advantages which were proposed in the establishment of the colonies, had not been obtained. It had been calculated, that they would increase within themselves sufficiently to render any other mode of recruiting unnecessary; but the mortality among the sons of the soldiers had been so great, in comparison with the births, that Count Arackschejeff was obliged, in order to complete the regiments, to take soldiers' children from the crown and other villages. It farther appeared, that of the 15,061 males, and 12,670 females, composing the northern district, only 4751 had not become a burden to the government; consequently, government had to provide for 23,251, instead of for 6000, which was the utmost that had been calculated upon. Thus, about six-seventh parts of these colonies did not support themselves, as it was expected they would do; on the contrary, government would have to find support and provisions for the colonized battalions, as well as for those on service, and at the same time provide for the other indigent individuals, of whom there was a constantly increasing number in these settlements.

After the death of the late emperor, his mortal remains were removed from the palace of Taganrog to the church of St Alexander Newsky, where they lay upwards of two months. They were then removed in great state, and under a numerous escort, to St Petersburg. In every city through which they passed, funeral ceremonies were performed over them in the principal churches, which, notwithstanding the inclemency of the season, were attended by nearly the whole neighbouring population. After having traversed 8000 wersts, the body arrived, on 10th March, at Czarskoje Selo, where the imperial family were assembled to receive it. It was then removed to the imperial palace of Tschesme; from whence, on the 18th, it was removed in grand procession to St Petersburg. The procession was divided into thirteen sections; in the last of which was the hearse, drawn by eight horses, followed by the reigning emperor, who was accompanied by the grand Duke Michael, the Prince of Orange, and Prince William of Prussia, and supported by the Duke of Wellington, and other distinguished military characters. The Empresses Alexandrina and Maria followed in one carriage, with the Crown Prince and Princess Maria of Wurtemburgh. On arriving at St Petersburg, the body was deposited in the cathedral of our Lady of Casan, where it lay exposed eight days, during which, persons of all classes were admitted to pay their last respects to it. On the 25th, the body was removed to the church of St Peter and St Paul, where it was interred with great pomp in the cemetery of Peter the Great, the members of the imperial family, and the foreigners of distinction then in the capital, having assisted at the ceremony.

Upon the accession of the new em-

peror, the Duke of Wellington was charged by the British government with a mission to the court of Petersburg, ostensibly for the purpose of congratulating his majesty upon the event ; but the dignity of his grace's rank, and the celebrity of his name, led the public to suppose that his mission had much higher objects. His journey was chiefly by land. He was received at Berlin, and also at St Petersburg, where he arrived in the beginning of March, with all the honours that were due to the services which he had rendered to Europe. His grace held repeated and very long conferences both with the emperor and Count Nesselrode, the minister for foreign affairs. It does not belong to us to penetrate the mystery in which these conferences are enveloped ; but subsequent events, when viewed in connexion with the well-known interests and wishes of our government, have made it very evident that his grace's efforts were directed to preventing a rupture between Russia and Turkey, and obtaining the co-operation of the former power, in putting an end to the war which still continued to ravage Greece. In point of fact, the protocol of a convention between Russia and Great Britain was signed at St Petersburg, on 4th April, which was notified to the ministers of the other great powers, and also to the Sublime Porte, and by which the two contracting powers declared their determination to take measures for terminating the above war, which threatened the extirpation of a Christian people. His mission having terminated, his grace took his departure from St Petersburg on the 6th April. Among the other honours which were paid to his grace, was the conferring his name upon the regiment of Smolensko, on the day of the anniversary

of the capture of Paris by the allied powers.

In the month of May, the imperial family were visited with a new affliction in the death of the Empress Elizabeth, the late emperor's widow. No attention or kindness was omitted to be paid to her by the new sovereign and his mother, which could assist in assuaging her grief ; but all was unavailing. She expired at Bellef, in the government of Twer, on the 16th ; and was afterwards, in fulfilment of her own desire, interred in the same tomb with her illustrious husband.

General Zayonczek, who was charged with the civil administration of Poland, as president of the Council of State, having died in the month of July, the senator Wayvode Sabolewsky was appointed to succeed him ; and the Czarowitch Constantine was continued at the head of the military department of the Polish government.

The special commission appointed to investigate the origin and objects of the late revolutionary movements at St Petersburg, after a most patient research, which lasted five months, presented their report on 30th May. In this report it was affirmed, that the conspiracy had been hatched so far back as 1816, that it originated with several young officers who had served in Germany, and that, to accomplish it, the assassination of the late emperor had been resolved upon by several of the conspirators. It is rather a remarkable, but easily accounted for circumstance, that of the persons implicated by this report, 120 in number, there were only five or six of obscure rank, and among them were three barons, two counts, and seven princes, namely, Troubetzkai, Obolensky, Bariatinsky, Serge-Walkonsky, Stchepine-Rastousky, Va-

lerian Galitzin, and Schakouskoi. The report separated the accused into two classes, those who had been guilty of high treason, and those who had joined in the measures of the former from "delusion and weakness of character," without any specific object, or having had any share in the revolt. On this report being presented, the emperor constituted a high court of justice for the trial of the accused, consisting of, according to ancient usage, the three principal orders of the state, the Council of the Empire, the directing Senate, and the Holy Synod, to whom were joined certain civilians and military men high in rank. The trial was instantly proceeded in; and the result was, that thirty-six of the accused were condemned to death; of that number, five, viz. Colonel Pestel, Sub-Lieutenant Rileieff, Lieutenant-Colonel Serge-Mouravieff Apostol, Sub-Lieutenant Bestaujef-Rumine, and Lieutenant Kahovsky, were, on account of the peculiar enormity of their guilt, adjudged to be drawn and quartered. The others were condemned to the minor punishments of exile, for ever, or for a limited period, to Siberia, and labour in the mines; in addition to which, such of them as were of the class of nobles were deprived of their titles. His majesty afterwards mitigated, in various degrees, the punishments awarded to the whole criminals. The horrid punishment decreed against the above five named individuals, he commuted into the ignominious one of hanging, which had not been inflicted in Russia for upwards of sixty years.

On 25th July, at three o'clock in the morning, the troops which were to assist at the execution of these criminals, were assembled on the glacis of the citadel of St Petersburg. There was a demi-battalion from each

regiment of cavalry. From 1200 to 1500 persons at most, were assembled on the occasion. The five convicts were first brought in front of the site of the scaffold, which was not then erected, and remained for more than an hour spectators of the preparations. Afterwards, the other persons, condemned, to the number of about 100, were brought out guarded, each of them, whose regiment was there, in front of his regiment; those whose regiments were not on the ground, or not in the service, were collected before the scaffold. The sentence was read to them, and they were degraded by being placed on their knees, and having their swords broken over their heads. They were afterwards clad in grey coats, and their uniforms, swords, epaulettes, and decorations, were thrown into a great fire, close to the gallows. They were then made to defile before the scaffold, and reconducted to the fortress. After their departure, Pestel, Rileieff, Serge-Mouravieff Apostol, Bestaujef-Rumine, and Kahovsky, ascended the scaffold. At the signal given for the execution, the ropes attached to Rileieff, Mouravieff, and Bestaujef, broke. After a quarter of an hour of cruel torture, taken up with new preparations, the two former ascended the scaffold with great firmness; the other had to be carried. In an instant they were no more.

Some days afterwards, the other condemned criminals set out for Siberia, under a military escort. In the meantime, the emperor gave many new proofs of the amiableness of his disposition, by administering consolation to the relatives of the most eminent victims of his justice. To Madame Rileieff, whom grief had deprived of her reason, he repeatedly sent messages by one of his own aides-de-camp, assuring her of his favour and

protection; upon the father of Colonel Pestel, he bestowed 50,000 rubles and other favours; and the brother of Pestel, who was a colonel in the horse guards, was promoted to be an aide-de-camp to his majesty.

There remained a number of other officers who had been involved in the conspiracy, but not included in the trial. Some of these were degraded to the ranks, while others were transferred to other regiments, with the loss of a step in rank.

On 28th July, an ukase was published, providing for the government of the country, in the event of the death of the emperor, and also that of the death of his son, the Archduke Alexander Nicolavitch, and the failure of heirs-male of the direct line. In the former case, the Archduke Michael was declared to be regent during his nephew's minority, and in the other he was declared to be the hereditary emperor.

On 3d September, the coronation of the emperor and empress, which had been delayed till then, on account of the decease of the Empress Elizabeth, was performed at Moscow, in the Kremlin, within the Cathedral of the Assumption, in presence of the other members of the imperial family, the nobility, and foreign ambassadors. It were needless to enter into a detail of the ceremonial, of the festivities and rejoicings which ensued, or of the various imperial acts of grace by which the event was signalized. Suffice it to say, that the Czarovitch Constantine, with either a magnanimity or a prostration of spirit which belongs to few—with that peculiar turn of feeling which has rendered his character one of the greatest moral enigmas of the age, assisted at the coronation and its splendid accompaniments, in the capacity of aide-de-camp to the emperor. On that occasion, the King of Great Britain was

represented by the Duke of Devonshire, the entertainments given by whom were upon a scale of magnificence which astonished even the Russian nobility. The King of France was suitably represented by the Duke of Ragusa.

At the close of the festivities attendant upon the coronation, intelligence was received at Moscow of the invasion of Georgia by an army of Persians. Throughout Europe it was generally thought at the time, that this hostile proceeding on the part of Persia, which was in fact the commencement of a war against Russia, had been provoked by the encroachments or insults of the latter power. It was argued that Persia, as a power, existed at the mercy of Russia, which, by the treaty of Teflis, had acquired possession of nearly the whole western coast of the Caspian Sea, and advanced her frontier to within seventy leagues of Teheran, the Persian capital; and therefore, that aggression on the part of Persia would be madness, when even her resistance of aggression would be hopeless, and, at best, but an effort of despair. However, from the necessity of the case, we must content ourselves with the explanations given by the Russian government of the origin of the quarrel between the two powers; and though these must be received with considerable scepticism, it is but fair to add, that in weighing the probabilities of the case, there ought to be opposed to the obvious interest which Persia had in maintaining peace, the ignorance and capriciousness inherent to so barbarous a power.

Among the various khanats which had been ceded to Russia by the treaty of Gulistan was that of Talaschyné, (now the province of Elizabeth,) with regard to which it was agreed, that commissioners should be appointed by both powers to fix for it a line

of demarcation; and it was farther agreed, that in fixing the line, should be found necessary, for the convenience of both, to detach a portion of the territory of the one and incorporate it with that of the other, the one losing that portion was to be compensated, by receiving from the other a corresponding portion of its territory. During many years Russia neglected to proceed on determining the line, and also to take possession of the ceded provinces of Georgia and Immertia, the khans of which she left in possession of their ancient privileges and rights. The consequence was, that while Russia possessed the nominal sovereignty of these provinces, the chiefs who governed them maintained their ancient attachment to Persia—an attachment which was cemented by a community of religion and manners.

At length Russia determined to put an end to a state of things so unprofitable to her, and to proceed at once to the demarcation of the frontiers, as far as the Araxes. As the first step towards this, she commenced occupying the shore of the lake Gotchka, in the khanat of Erivan; and, at the same time, offered to Persia, in the way of compensation, the Steppes of Moghan and other districts. It was thought that the influence of Abbas Mirza, second son of the Schah, Feth-Ali, and presumptive heir to the throne, (whose claim to the succession Russia, by the treaty of Gulistan, was bound to support,) would prevail in reconciling the Persian court to the purposed arrangements of Russia; but the news of the military conspiracies which had burst out in that empire seems to have inspired the Schah with the fallacious hope that it was about to become a prey to revolutionary passions, and that a favourable opportunity had occurred of his recovering possession

of the provinces of which the fate of war had deprived him. He applied to Great Britain for support in the war which he meditated; and, by the agency of Mussulman missionaries, inflamed the discontents of the tribes of Caucasus and the Tcheschenes, who had already revolted against their Russian masters.

In the meantime, Prince Menchekoff arrived at the Persian court, as Russian envoy, charged with the notification of the new emperor's accession, and of his amicable sentiments, and also with powers to definitively terminate all disputes connected with the frontier line. The diplomatic labours of Prince Menchekoff led to no result. According to a plan concerted by the Persian prime minister, Alair Khan, and Abbas Mirza, war was resolved on; and while the Persian troops were put in motion, the Russian envoy took his departure from Tauris to Sultane, where a camp was formed, which his majesty, the Schah, then happened to be visiting. Here the negotiations were renewed between Alair Khan and Menchekoff. The former demanded the restoration of the Gotchka coast, to which the other opposed a letter of Prince Abbas Mirza's, by which he consented to the cession of that coast in exchange for the territory situated between Kassan and Kassahatschay. Alair Khan stated, that the prince's consent had not the approbation of the Schah; and that the cession would never be submitted to. Menchekoff then expressed a wish for delay, until he received farther instructions from his court; on which it was proposed to him to reconduct him to Teflis, in order that negotiations might be renewed in some town upon the frontier. In the meantime, Abbas Mirza took his departure to assemble his troops, said to amount to 60,000 men, disciplined after the

European fashion, upon the frontiers of Karaba, while the Schah removed to Ardebil. The English ambassador, Mr Willock, in vain endeavoured to get the negotiations renewed; and perceiving the Persians to be resolved upon war, declared that, should the Schah advance hostilely towards the Russian frontier, as far as Ardebil, he would be forced to quit his court.

The Khan of Talaschync had already raised the standard of revolt; and, after overpowering the small Russian garrison of Arkivan, he demanded reinforcements from the Schah, to enable him to undertake the siege of Lenkeran. The Persians then thought proper to throw off the mask altogether. The persons attached to the Russian legation were put under arrest, and their papers secured; and the ambassador himself was detained at Erivan, under a variety of pretences, for more than a month, before he was suffered to depart for the Russian head-quarters. Several of the districts of Georgia were invaded, and the posts of Cossacks driven in. Elizabethpol was also evacuated. The Mahometan part of the Georgian population joined the enemy; while the Mingrelians, and other demi-savage tribes of Immeretia either revolted, or were on the eve of revolt. Towards the end of August, the entire districts of Karabeg, Talaschync, and Shirwan, were in the hands of the Persians.

At length the Governor-General, Yermaloff, having been reinforced from the army of the Don and the districts in the neighbourhood of Caucasus, directed several divisions of his army upon the points occupied by the enemy. The first of these, under the command of Count Madatoff, arrived, on 14th September, in front of the advanced guard of the Persians, which was posted upon the right bank

of the river Schamskhar. It consisted of 2000 regular infantry, and from 7000 to 8000 cavalry, besides artillery, and was commanded by Mahmet-Mirza, son of Prince Abbas Mirza, and by the sirdar Amir Khan, uncle of the latter. After some smart firing on both sides, the Persian cavalry gave way; and the infantry, being left without support, soon yielded to a charge made by the Russian cavalry, consisting of 800 Cossacks and a few Tartars. This affair cost the Persians two khans, 2000 men killed and wounded, and their whole camp furniture and baggage. Madatoff then advanced upon Elizabethpol, which had previously been abandoned by its garrison. It was taken possession of by the Russians without a shot having been fired; and great quantities of wheat and munitions of war fell into the hands of the victors.

On the night of the 21st, Madatoff was joined, in the environs of Elizabethpol, by a division commanded by General Paskewitch. Abbas Mirza, being informed of this movement, effected a junction with Alair Khan, and passed the Terter, in order to give battle to the Russians. The two armies encountered about seven wersts distant from Elizabethpol, and upon the banks of the small river Djcham. The Russian force consisted of 6000 infantry and 3000 cavalry, besides artillery. That of the Persians numbered twenty-four battalions of regular infantry, of from 800 to 1000 each, 12,000 cavalry, 8000 irregular troops, and 24 pieces of field artillery. The attack was commenced by the Persians; but the conflict was of short duration. Their fire, slack and ill directed, was silenced by that of the Russians; their infantry began to waver, and were thrown into disorder by the Cossacks; their cavalry fled; and, in short, the rout became general. The Persians lost of prisoners about

1100 soldiers, nine officers, and two khans, three standards, three guns, and eighty caissons. The loss of the Russians was trifling.

Abbas Mirza, after rallying his fugitive troops, raised the blockade of the fortress of Chauchas, which he had caused to be invested, and repassed the Araxes with his cavalry on 11th October, while his infantry threw themselves into the mountains, in the hope of regaining the frontiers of Persia.

Another son of the Schah, Ali-Nachy Mirza, who had penetrated to the Russian provinces bordering upon the Caspian sea, with the design of exciting the inhabitants to revolt, commenced operations in the mountains between Shirwan and Daghestan; but soon resigned the command of the army to Mustapha, the ancient Schah of Shirwan. Mustapha compelled the people of these countries to join his standard; but, on the advance of a Russian division, commanded by Major General Krabbe, many of them deserted, and the rest were afterwards delivered from the service by the operations of the Russians, who soon subdued the whole province of Kouba, which Mustapha evacuated, and retreated into the steppes of Moghan.

The Schah was at the small town of Amar, when he was apprised by his sons of the serious reverses which his arms had sustained. It is said that the news strongly inclined him towards peace; but that his sons having threatened to dethrone him if he did not persevere in the war, he consented to furnish them with new troops.

In the meantime, General Paskevitch effected, with a portion of the corps d'armée which he commanded, a movement in advance as far as the Araxes. On the 6th and 7th November, he crossed that river, pushed

through the defiles beyond it, and halted upon the banks of the Pasihala, where he received intelligence of Abbas Mirza having retreated to Ardebil. On the 8th and 9th he sent out detachments in various directions, to collect the families of Russian subjects who had been driven into Persia by the enemy, upon his retreat from Karabég—a humane object, which was successfully accomplished. These operations by the Russians, on the right of the Araxes, proved that the deep defiles and lofty ridges upon the Persian frontier, though a formidable, were not an insurmountable bulwark against foreign invasion. At length General Paskewitch, judging it needless to pursue the enemy farther into their own country, which had been laid waste, in an unfavourable season, repassed the Araxes, and resumed his former position upon the river Tcherakane. This was the last important event of the campaign of 1826; at the end of which Abbas Mirza encamped with some new troops about seven wersts from the bridge of Khawdaporen, upon the same river.

We must defer an account of the negotiations between Russia and Turkey, which took place at Ackermann, until we come to treat of the affairs of the latter country.

Towards the end of the year, a decree was issued by the Russian Council of State, and confirmed by his majesty, to the effect that titles and orders conferred upon merchants were to be considered only personal, and not as ennobling their descendants. It had been generally surmised that, as a consequence of the unfavourable report by General Arackschejeff, the military colonies would be abolished; but by two ukases, respectively dated 10th November and 7th December, the statutes of these colonies were confirmed, and additional immunities conferred upon them.

CHAPTER XIII.

Turkey and Greece.

THE history of Turkey was pregnant with important events. Its government pertinaciously persisted, in defiance of Russia and despite of the entreaties of both Britain and Austria, in retaining military occupation of the provinces of Moldavia and Wallachia, the inhabitants of which she subjected to the cruellest exactions. The people of Servia were threatened with still greater severity; and their deputies, who had gone to Constantinople to make known their complaints, were thrown into prison. Russia, as the protector, constituted by treaty, of these three provinces, in vain employed remonstrances and threats, to induce Turkey to relieve them from their oppressions. In reply to all her remonstrances, Turkey demanded that, in terms of the treaty of Bucharest, she should evacuate the various Asiatic fortresses which she had captured in the course of last war. Russia retorted by charging Turkey with instigating to revolt the inhabitants of the ceded provinces, which rendered her continued occupation of these fortresses indispensably necessary; and also with maintaining a trade in slaves within the limits of Georgia. Eventually, the Porte, with its natural haughtiness, refused to reply to the various notes addressed to it by M. de Minziaiky, the Russian minister, and observed the most obstinate silence

with regard to all the controverted questions. On 5th April, M. de Minziaiky addressed a note to the Reis Effendi, in which he demanded the immediate restoration of Moldavia and Wallachia to their just rights, the redress of their grievances, and their evacuation by the Ottoman troops; the liberation of the Servian deputies; and satisfaction for the insult upon the dignity of Russia, by failing to reply to the notes of her minister. He also proposed that, on these terms being accepted, the Porte should appoint plenipotentiaries to meet upon the frontier with those of Russia, to determine the various questions which had been urged upon its notice at Constantinople, by Baron Strogonoff, from 1816 down to 1821. The note concluded by declaring, that if at the end of six weeks, the above proposals were not acceded to, the writer of it would take his departure, "an event," he observed, "the immediate consequences of which it was easy to foresee."

This spirited note had the effect of restoring the Porte to its senses. On the evening of 14th May, at the expiration of the time allowed, the Russian minister received a note from the Reis Effendi, acceding to the whole of his terms. At the same time, orders were dispatched to the Turkish troops in the two principal-

ities to retire behind the Danube; the Servian deputies were set at liberty; and Seid Mehmed Hadi Effendi, the comptroller of Anatolia, and the Mollah, Seid Ibrahim Asset Effendi, were appointed plenipotentiaries to settle with Russia the various questions between the two countries which were in dependence.

The critical situation of the Turks determined the Sultan to put in execution a most important measure, which had been entertained by his predecessor Selim III., but cost that unfortunate sovereign his life. The body of Janissaries, which were originally formed by the Sultan Orcan, had much degenerated from their ancient virtue, discipline, and courage; and, instead of being, as formerly, the terror of Christendom, they had become, by their insubordination, mutinous spirit and exorbitant privileges, one great source of the weakness of the empire.* Repeatedly had they fired the capital, their usual signal of revolt; and many were the Grand Viziers and other state officers in those cases who had been put to death by the sovereign's orders, as the only means of appeasing their vengeance. They exercised, in short, a mastery over the Sultan and his divan, utterly incompatible with the dignity of the state, or the pursuit of any steady and rational system of policy. In addition to these, their irredeemable bad qualities, the disastrous result of every war in which Turkey had been engaged, in modern times, had forced a conviction upon the minds of the most bigoted Mussulmans, that however admirable the institution might have been in its origin, when the military art of Europe was yet in its in-

fancy, it had become totally feeble and ineffective, as a defence to the empire, when opposed to modern discipline and tactics. This conviction was confirmed by comparing the disasters which had uniformly attended the Turkish arms in Greece, though there encountered only by hasty and undisciplined levies, with the successful achievements of the African army, commanded by Ibrahim Pacha, which had been organized and trained upon European models.

Selim III. had made an attempt to introduce among the Janissaries the European exercise and discipline, (called by the Turks the *Nizzam-y-dgedid*,) which so incensed them, that they forced him to descend from the throne. His nephew, Mustapha, was substituted in his place; and he, after reigning a few months, was put to death, along with his deposed uncle, in two revolts of the Janissaries. He was succeeded, on 11th Aug. 1808, by the present Sultan, Mahmoud II., who was compelled to abolish the *Nizzam-y-dgedid*, to swear to maintain the sacred institution of the Janissaries, and even, as a farther pledge of his fidelity to their cause, to enrol himself of new in one of their *ortas*.*

From the commencement of his reign, Mahmoud II. had proved himself a prudent, sagacious, and energetic prince; and while he secretly determined upon the suppression of the Janissaries, he affected a great veneration for their privileges. The first overt act from which it could be inferred that he was not altogether satisfied with the military institutions of his empire, was his organizing, shortly after the treaty of Bucharest, a corps of artillery, (*Topschis*,) amount-

* At the time of their suppression, there were 196 *ortas* of Janissaries, each consisting of 1000 men. Of these *ortas*, 40 were stationed at Constantinople.

ing to 14,000 men, upon whose support he confidently reckoned in the future changes which he meditated.

On 28th May, a general council of state was held, at which were present the Grand Vizier, and other ministers, the Mufti, the Ulemas, (who, on all previous occasions, had sided with the soldiery,) most of the chiefs of the Janissaries, Hussein Pacha, who commanded the troops assembled on the Bosphorus, and many other distinguished personages. At this council it was resolved that the time had come when it was the duty of all Mussulmans to arm themselves in defence of their faith; that, in the actual state of the country, military subordination and discipline were the only means by which the dangers that threatened it could be averted; and that each *orta* of Janissaries should furnish 150 men, to be incorporated with new troops, which were to take the name of *Muallem eskindif*—meaning disciplined infantry. A *hatischeriff* to the above effect was prepared, received the signatures of all present, was sanctioned by the *fetiva* of the Mufti, and immediately proclaimed and put in execution. This document was very cautiously conceived. It confirmed the privileges of the Janissaries, and abstained from all mention of the hated name *Nizam-y-dgedid*; it fixed the pay of the new troops at thirty paras daily for each man; and prescribed for them their arms and uniform, the former consisting of musket, and bayonet, and sabre.

The inscription of 150 men from each *orta*, to be drafted into the *Muallem eskindif*, succeeded in the capital without any difficulty; but the moment that the process of exercising these recruits after the European fashion commenced, which was conducted chiefly by officers of the Egyptian army, the discontent of the Ja-

nissaries broke out into open violence. The first seditious movement took place on the night of the 14th June, within their barracks; from which a large party of them sallied, and marched towards the houses of their Aga and Nedschib-Effendi, whom they suspected of being the instigators of the recent reform. These personages, however, apprised of their danger, had taken refuge with the Vizier; and the mutineers, enraged that they had escaped their vengeance, set fire to their houses. The great body of the revolted, in the meantime, advanced against the palace of the Vizier, who had fled to Jali-koschk, a pavilion belonging to the Sultan, situated near the seraglio, and within the line of the fortifications, where he collected the partizans of government, while some of the revolted were employed in pillaging his palace, and the rest dispersed themselves among the coffee-shops, where they gave themselves up to the most frightful excesses.

At day-break, those of the Janissaries who had remained in their barracks, assembled in the Atmeidan, (the ancient hippodrome of the Emperor Constantine,) and caused to be proclaimed by the public criers throughout the suburbs, that the whole of their body ought to assemble in that place for their common defence.

The first intelligence of this revolt reached the Sultan at his country palace of Besihektasch, on the European side of the Bosphorus. At once, with the decision which marks his character, he returned on horseback to his seraglio, where were speedily assembled the Vizier, and whole other ministers, the Mufti and principal Ulemas. In the meantime, Hussein Pacha, who commanded a camp of observation on the European coast, and Mohammed Pacha, who com-

manded a similar camp on the coast of Asia, arrived with numerous troops, with whom were joined a number of battalions of artillery.

In the grand council it was decreed, the Mufti himself having declared the measure to be necessary, that the sacred standard (*Sandschak-Sherif*) should be displayed; and it having been delivered to the Grand Vizier by the hands of the Sultan himself, with the accustomed formalities, the public criers were directed to summon all Mussulmans who were faithful to the law of the prophet, to arm themselves, and rally round the *Sandschak-Sherif*, at the tomb of the Sultan Ahmed. The summons was zealously obeyed by a fanatical population; but it was addressed in vain to the revolted soldiery. Three times were they summoned to repair to the sacred standard. They replied, that they would never submit to the will of the Sultan, until he decreed the abolition of the new troops, and gave up to them the heads of the Grand Vizier, their Aga, Hussein Pacha, and Nedschib Effendi. The Sultan, then, instead of listening to a statement of their grievances, vowed the destruction of their body; and the Mufti having declared them beyond the pale of the law, Hussein Pacha was directed to march with his whole troops, and extirpate them. The attack was rapid and terrible. The Janissaries, already disheartened by the circumstance of the populace having deserted them, retreated from the Atmeidan, after firing some volleys, and threw themselves into their barracks, where they offered submission, which the Sultan refused to accept. By his orders, the barracks were fired, and the fate of the Janissaries was speedily decided. About 4000 of them were cut to pieces, or perished in the flames. The remainder made an attempt to gain possession of the boats stationed

at the different piers; but they were overtaken, and slaughtered. A few only escaped through the compassion of such of their comrades as had remained faithful to the Sultan. Considerable treasure was found in the barracks, the fruit of the previous night's plundering, and which now became the prey of the victors. The gates of the capital were kept shut, to prevent the escape of any of the revolted.

It was observed, on the following day, the 16th, that the Sultan, in going to the mosque of Sul-Tchesme, was escorted, not by Janissaries, but only by *Topschis* and *Khoum Baradjis*, or bombardiers. In the meanwhile, the Vizier, Mufti, and other dignitaries, were encamped under tents, within the Atmeidan, where they formed themselves into a tribunal for the trial of rebels. The whole Janissaries who were taken with arms in their hands, particularly their chiefs, on being brought before this tribunal, were, after a few interrogatories, directed to be strangled on the spot. Others less culpable were sent to prison, and afterwards transported to Asia.

On the 17th, amidst the executions which continued without intermission, appeared a firman, which abolished for ever the name and institution of Janissaries; and replaced them by a body of regular troops, denominated *Assikiri-Mansurit-Muhamediye*, (Defenders of Islamism,) the supreme command of which was given to Hussein Pacha, with the title of *Seraskier*. In the same firman, an assurance was given to such of the Janissaries, over the whole empire, as had not shared in the revolt, that their entire privileges would be preserved to them.

At the same time, it was forbidden to all to assume the name of Janissary; the barracks of the suppressed

corps were razed to the ground; and all their various insignia were destroyed, after being trampled under foot by the Mufti. The peaceable inhabitants were directed to re-open their shops, which had been closed for three days; and to hang lamps in front of their houses during the night-time. Numerous patrols of civic militia were formed in an inconceivably short time, and maintained the tranquillity of the city.

The same day, the sacred standard was restored to the seraglio, to which place the tribunal within the Atmeidan transferred its sittings. The new Seraskier Hussein established his head-quarters at Esky-Serai, a position within the walls, which commanded the whole city. On that day also the Sultan appeared on the parade in the costume of the new troops.

A body of troops, called Yamacks, who had the privilege of garrisoning the castles on the Bosphorus, had recommended themselves to the favour of the Sultan, by the zeal with which they had offered to march against the rebels; yet, notwithstanding, his highness resolved to substitute regulars in their place; but to evince his gratitude, he made them a present of 300 purses.

It would be only disgusting to enter into a minute detail of the severities exercised against the body of Janissaries. Executions of men of that class continued for many days. It was considered sufficient, to warrant the execution of any one, that he was a Janissary, if he could not prove that he was not engaged in the revolt. The company of Porters, many of whom had their names inscribed on the rolls of the Janissaries, and who had made common cause with that body in the late revolt, were called to a strict account; and their chief, and a number of others, were put to death. The remainder, who were of

Turkish origin, were banished to Asia, and their places supplied by Armenians. According to the most moderate calculations, from 5000 to 6000 of the proscribed body of Janissaries perished by the sword, the flames, and the hands of the executioner; and from 15,000 to 16,000 of them were exiled to Asia.

These extreme severities led to a reaction in the mind of the public. When the corps of Janissaries existed, their insolences were felt to be all but intolerable; but associated as their name was with the glory of the empire, national prejudices came in aid of the compassion which their cruel fate naturally excited. Other measures of the government tended greatly to produce a spirit of discontent. The various corporations of the capital were called to answer for the conduct of their Riayas (Syndics) during the recent disturbances. Trade was generally depressed, particularly by *maxima* having been officially put upon the prices of bread and butcher-meat, and by a change in the currency; and bigotry was violently offended by the suppression of the convents of a class of dervishes called bektachis, the memory of whose founder was revered as that of a saint. In spite of the remonstrances of the various foreign legations, the Janissaries who had been appointed as their guards, and had not participated in the rebellion, were withdrawn and impressed into the new corps, and their place was supplied by other troops. The Ulemas, too, whose co-operation in his late measures the Sultan had so sagaciously and adroitly secured, began to murmur at a system which seemed to set prejudice at defiance, and treated it as a crime. The plague, also, visited Constantinople, and was construed to be a divine punishment of the impious policy adopted by the Sultan. The Sultan's resolution, however, was

not to be shaken. Four of the most distinguished of the Ulemas, among whom was Ismael-Effendi, who had been ambassador at London, and Schani-Zadi, historiographer of the empire, having been accused of speaking irreverently of the Sultan's projects, were banished to Asia; and a Jew banker, who had been contractor for the Janissaries, was, without any form of process, arrested and strangled, and his whole property, amounting to no less than 68,675,000 piastres, confiscated to the state. About the same time, by a firman of the Sultan, the corps of *bostangis*, who had charge of the imperial palaces, was suppressed, and its members incorporated with the new troops.

The firmans sent into the provinces announcing the suppression of the Janissaries, excited some little disturbances at Erzerum and Trebizond; but at length the new military regulations were quietly submitted to throughout the whole empire. Numbers of the metropolitan Janissaries, who were on the lists of proscription, had escaped to the coast of Adrianople, and the forests of Belgrade; and it was feared they would succeed in exciting their provincial brethren to a general revolt; but the only effects of their revenge and despair, were a petty commotion at Adrianople, which was speedily quelled, and a few isolated robberies.

By two firmans of the Sultan, the practice of confiscation of the property of criminals, whether Turks or Greeks, was abolished; and the Mollahs and Cadis were strictly enjoined to distribute impartial justice, and to discountenance all attempts at chicanery.

When tranquillity had been apparently established, a dreadful fire broke out in the capital on the 31st August. It originated in the shop of a butcher in the suburbs; and being

favoured by a previous long drought, and a high wind which blew at the time, soon extended to every quarter in the city. It raged for thirty-six hours before it was finally arrested; and in its progress destroyed those parts of the city most remarkable for wealth and magnificence. It was calculated, that no fewer than 6000 houses, or an eighth part of the city, including the *Besestan*, the houses of the Kiaia-Bey and Nedschib-Effendi, and the magazines of the Vizier-Khan and Detgi-Khasin, were consumed; and the total loss was estimated at 300,000,000 piastres.

The conflagration was generally supposed to be the work of disaffected incendiaries; and to guard against any sudden commotion, the whole regular troops were kept on foot during its progress. The munificence of the Sultan was conspicuous on the occasion. He directed the walls of the seraglio to be thrown open, that the unfortunate wretches who had been deprived of their habitations might find refuge within them. Thousands of women and children were received into apartments of the palace, and had provisions liberally supplied to them. At the same time, the Sultan directed that a considerable portion of the expense of rebuilding the burnt down houses should be defrayed out of his treasury.

A number of measures about this time were adopted by government, from some of which it may be inferred, that it did not enjoy that sense of perfect security which it affected. There was a new officer placed at the head of the police, named the Capedgi-bashi, upon whom were bestowed extraordinary powers. A proclamation was issued, warning all Mussulmans to be on their guard against the seditious practices of men, who, joining themselves to the views of those malefactors who had been executed or ba-

nished, and disguised so that they could not be known, spread the most dangerous rumours in all quarters; and directing, that all persons who should be found repeating such rumours, or provoking disturbances in any way, should be instantly seized and punished, the men by beheading, and the women by strangulation and being thrown into the sea. A number of executions followed this proclamation, and produced a powerful and salutary effect on the public mind.

On 2d September a firman was published, authorizing the opening of 2000 taverns, for the sale of wines and spirituous liquors, either by Turks, Greeks, Armenians, or Jews, upon their paying a license-duty. This firman was preceded by a dictum of the mufti, that the precept of the prophet with regard to wine was not at all a prohibition, but only an advice.

To appease the bigotry of the more zealous Mussulmans, a firman appeared on the 30th, which renewed the ancient ordinances against rajahs of either sex wearing clothes of the colour or form appropriated to true believers; and directed the police to apprehend all who should offend against these ordinances, and subject them to rigorous punishment.

We have already stated, that the Porte had agreed to appoint plenipotentiaries, to negotiate with those of Russia a settlement of the different questions pending between the two powers; and after much opposition on the part of the Porte, the proposal of Russia was at length agreed to, that the place of conference should be Ackermann, a town of Bessarabia, upon the Niester, 140 leagues N.E. of Constantinople. After several delays in the course of their route, upon various pretexts, the Turkish plenipotentiaries, Hadi-Effendi and Ibra-

him-Effendi, at length arrived at Ackermann, made their entry in great pomp, and were received with all due ceremony and respect by Count Woronzoff and the Marquis de Ribeaupierre, the plenipotentiaries of Russia. The conferences were opened on the 1st of August. After much and complicated negotiation, the demands made by Russia were reduced to eighty, embracing three principal questions, 1st, That relative to the evacuation of the Asiatic fortresses, chiefly on the Black Sea and the Phasis, which Russia, by the treaty of Bucharest, was bound to restore to Turkey. Two of these she had restored; but for the four others she offered compensation, alleging, that Turkish authority in that quarter was too feeble to restrain the commission of robberies by Turkish subjects within the Russian territory, at the embouchure of and upon the river Phasis. 2d, The question relative to the rights and privileges of Wallachia and Moldavia, which Russia, in virtue of antecedent treaties, required to be restored and confirmed; and 3d, That regarding the civil and religious privileges of the Servians, who were oppressed by Milesch, who was retained in the dignity of *knez*, contrary to the wishes of Russia; and which oppression she demanded they should be relieved from.

These peremptory demands, which were made on the 25th September, were so offensive to the Turkish plenipotentiaries, that they threatened instantly to break up the conferences; on which those of Russia, with much nonchalance, offered to provide them with an escort as far as the Moldavian frontier. But the former, not wishing to incur the responsibility of so abrupt a departure, moved a delay of the negotiations, until they could receive fresh instructions from the divan. The Russians agreed to a de-

lay, but limited it to 7th October ; and, at same time, dispatched instructions to M. de Minziacky, ambassador to the Porte, to urge the Reis-effendi to a satisfactory answer. The dragoman who presented Minziacky's note, verbally assured the Reis-effendi, that were the whole demands of Russia not complied with by the 7th October, the Russian army would pass the Pruth.

The Turkish empire stood at this time in a very difficult crisis. It was evident, that the late reorganization of the Turkish army had been resolved on from a dread of Russia, and to enable the Porte to withstand the demands which that power now so peremptorily urged upon it. If delay was advantageous to the one, it was equally the object of the other to prevent it. The military arrangements of Turkey were sure to add to her strength ultimately ; but, in the meantime, while her troops were unaccustomed to the new exercise, discipline, and tactics, and prejudiced against them, instead of being sensible of their value, these arrangements, it was obvious, must introduce disorder and weakness into the army. The crisis was such, in short, that Russia might then, if ever, strike a blow at Turkey with decision, and the certainty of success ; and when there was no alternative for the latter but war or submission. Alive to these considerations, and acted upon by the solicitations of the European ministers, the divan at length authorized their plenipotentiaries to accede to the terms demanded by Russia. Two separate treaties upon these terms were accordingly concluded and signed at Ackermann on the 7th October ; by the first of which, the Asiatic frontier between the two powers was restored to the *statu quo ante bellum* ; and two years were allowed for the consideration of the

best means of preserving tranquillity on both sides of it ; and the Sultan renewed and ratified the whole obligations he had contracted by the treaty of Bucharest, particularly with regard to the rights and privileges of Wallachia, Moldavia, and Servia. By the other treaty, which related to the two first of these provinces, it was determined that their boyars were to have the right of electing from their number their own hospodars, who were each to continue in office seven years ; but that the Sultan should have a *veto* in the election of a hospodar, on showing reasons satisfactory to Russia ; and that the territories which had been detached from the two provinces should be restored to them. There were other subordinate provisions in the treaties, all to the advantage of Russia. The treaties were subsequently ratified by both governments.

About this time, a formidable conspiracy was detected among such of the old Janissaries as had been incorporated with the new troops. Their first design was, at a military review, to have their guns loaded with ball cartridge ; and, on the first command being given to fire, to level their muskets at Hussein Pacha, Mohammed Pacha, and other favourers of the new reforms, and the Sultan himself, should he happen to be present. They abandoned that design for another, which was, that they should raise the standard of revolt, march against the seraglio, and murder the Sultan and his ministers, as enemies to Islamism. A dervish of the order of backtachi, called Lulledj-Ahmed, by his fanatical prophecies, had gained a number of the civil corporations over to the cause of the conspirators. The conspiracy was divulged to government by some *topschis* who had engaged in it ; and vigorous measures were adopted for its suppression. From 500 to 600 members of corpo-

rations were arrested ; and of these, 500 were executed, and the rest transported to the coast of Asia. A great additional number of the old Janissaries were sent into exile, while every day multiplied the executions of guilty, or rather suspected persons. The dervish, Lulledj-Ahmed, after being put to the torture, which he bore with the fortitude of a martyr, and without making any disclosures, was also put to death.

An approximation, at this time, was made by the government to the forms and usages of the governments of Europe. Persons guilty of treason were divided into two classes ; those who had been actually engaged in a conspiracy, and those who, knowing the existence of a conspiracy, failed to divulge it. To the first class was assigned the punishment of death ; to the other, perpetual banishment. By a firman, of date 1st December, the practice of confiscating, for the use of the Sultan, the property of deceased persons, was for ever abolished ; and it was declared, that the families of persons deceasing, whether officers of state, private Mussulmans, ayars, wayvodes, or rayas, should succeed to the estates and effects of their ancestors.

The new military organization and exercise of the troops continued with unabated activity, while the labours of the executioner were unremitting in extirpating disaffection. In short, at the end of the year, the greatest military and civil revolution ever resolved on by a sovereign, was successfully achieved, in spite of the resistance opposed by the prejudices and customs of a fanatical and haughty soldiery, who till then had been the dictators of the state, and of the most bigoted population on the face of the earth ; and this chiefly by the sagacity, vigour, and courage of the Sultan, the representative of a race in whom it was supposed these qualities

had been extinct for nearly two centuries.

At the commencement of the year, the affairs of the Greeks were in a state of the utmost possible distraction and depression ; but still it was a proud boast, that, after five years of sanguinary warfare, a people naturally so feeble were still able to maintain their independence against the gigantic force employed to subdue them.

It would be tedious and useless to recount the various marches and countermarches of the contending troops, the petty and inconsequential skirmishes which occurred between them, or the dissensions which prevailed in the Greek councils. We shall, therefore, chiefly confine ourselves to two most memorable occurrences, the siege of Missolonghi, and the mismanagement and dilapidation of a large sum of money which had been raised in England, by loan, for the support of the Greek cause.

The town of Missolonghi contained a population of 13,000, to which it had been elevated from 2000 or 3000, by the arrival of refugees from other parts of Greece, who had great confidence in its natural and artificial strength. Its proper garrison consisted of 5000 warriors ; but after the disasters sustained by the Greek arms, in contending with Ibrahim Pacha in the Morea, it was strengthened by the arrival of a considerable body of Suliots. Another body of Suliots stationed themselves on the side of Salona, in order to harass the besieging army on its rear.

The great successes of Ibrahim, and the misfortunes of Redschid Pacha, had determined the Porte to confide the siege of the place to the former. On 8th December 1825, Ibrahim arrived with his troops in the neighbourhood of Missolonghi, and superseded the Seraskier in the command

His army amounted to 25,000 men, of whom 8600 were disciplined Arabs and Egyptians, and was entrenched at the mouth of the Achelous.

Nearly the whole month of January passed away in ineffectual cannonading on both sides; but on the 28th, the Greek fleet entered the waters of Missolonghi, where it burned a Turkish corvette; and, seizing advantage of a favourable wind, dispatched six fire-ships against the fleet of the enemy, which threw it into disorder, and thus enabled that of the Greeks to land supplies of ammunition and provisions on the isle of Vassiladi, for the relief of the garrison. It then sailed for Hydra to re-victual, and demand new reinforcements.

At this time, the Greek government established at Napoli was absolutely without resources, but such as it received from Philhellenic societies established in different parts of Europe, but particularly France; and could undertake no enterprise of moment for the relief of Missolonghi, the fate of which involved that of Greece. It is true, that several expeditions were planned, one under Colocotroni, for relieving the Morea from the presence of the Egyptians, which might have the effect of recalling Ibrahim from the siege; another, under Fabvier, for the conquest of Negropont; and another, under Gourras and Karaiskaki, to act on the side of Salona, from which the Suliots there stationed had been driven, and in the rear of the besiegers. But not one of all these expeditions was successful. In the meantime, the garrison experienced the want of provisions, and also powder, the fleet, under Miaoulis, not having been in a condition to return from Hydra until the beginning of April.

On 24th February, the besiegers opened a tremendous fire against the town, which lasted three hours, with-

out in the least shaking the courage of the garrison. On the 28th, 5000 Arabs having established themselves on a small hill in front of the bastion of Botzaris, were attacked by the Greeks, who, after a fierce contest, in which many lives were lost, succeeded in possessing themselves of the position.

Ibrahim, at length despairing of making an impression on the land side, determined to attack the town by sea; but first to obtain possession of the two principal Greek positions of Vassiladi and Anatolicon, which commanded the sea-board and the lagoons in front. He caused to be constructed pontoons and rafts mounted with cannon, for the purpose of preventing the approach of the Greek fleet, should it venture to appear, and of intercepting the communication between the town and the two isles by which it was defended. The Greeks in vain attempted to destroy these floating batteries. Ibrahim, having completed his preparations, on 9th March caused an attack to be made on Vassiladi, which had a garrison of only 200. It was long and gallantly defended, until a bomb, having fallen into its powder magazine, caused its explosion, and the death of most of its defenders. The survivors, with the exception of a few who escaped to the town across the lagoons, were put to the sword by the Arabs.

On the 13th, Ibrahim, designing to attack Anatolicon, directed his floating batteries along the canal of Poros, where they were fired upon by the Greeks from a fortified convent, named Kundro. A corps of Arabs was dispatched, by way of Stamma, to storm it. It was bravely assaulted, and as bravely defended; but the place was at length carried, and its garrison, 400 strong, massacred. The garrison of Anatolicon, amounting to

from 400 to 500 men, then offered to capitulate. Both men and women ran to the shore, and implored the clemency of the enemy. Ibrahim, after directing the soldiers to ground their arms, allowed the whole to retire to Arta, carrying with them their effects.

While these events were occurring, the Greeks of Missolonghi, to the number of 700, made a sortie upon the Egyptian camp. The conflict was sanguinary. The enemy lost their chief of artillery and standard-bearer, a colonel, and a great number of soldiers; but the Greeks, overpowered by numbers, were at length driven back, with the loss of nearly half their number.

Three weeks passed without Ibrahim having made any new attempt. In the meantime, the town laboured under the miseries of famine. The garrison was reduced to quarter rations, except on days when sorties were made. Some small succours, received from the Ionian islands, only served to prolong the crisis, without mitigating its severity. The only communication between the town and the sea that remained, was the isle of Clissova, where the Greeks had fortified the Church of the Trinity, and garrisoned it with 100 men, to whom were now joined 150 Suliots under Tzavellas. Upon this position, Ibrahim, on 5th April, directed an attack to be made by 2500 picked men, commanded by Redschiid Pacha. They were transported across on rafts, protected by guns planted on the shore. The action was desperate; but at length the assailants were forced to give way, after sustaining a great loss, and their chief himself having been wounded. At the same time, Ibrahim in person attacked the position from the other coast with 2000 regular troops. He also was forced to beat a retreat, with the entire loss of two of

his best regiments. The loss of the Greeks was inconsiderable. This brilliant affair greatly elevated the spirits of the people and garrison of Missolonghi, who, when the news of it reached them, assembled in the cathedral, and gave thanks to the Almighty for the victory.

The condition of the people and garrison, in the meantime, was truly pitiable. They had been reduced to live upon horses, dogs, and mice, and upon crabs and sea-weed, collected under the very fire of the enemy. About eight days after the affair of Clissova, their eyes were gladdened with the sight of the Greek fleet, under Miaoulis, which brought them ammunition, provision, and some reinforcements. All ran to the walls to enjoy the inspiring spectacle. Their joy was fated to be of short duration. European skill and industry had been employed in the arrangement of the enemy's fleet. The vessels composing it were drawn up in excellent order, and protected both in front and rear by immense rafts, covered with batteries, which effectually kept the Greek fire-ships at a distance. In an engagement which took place on 15th April, Miaoulis in vain endeavoured to break through the line which opposed his approach. The agony of the inhabitants, on witnessing the failure of his efforts, may be faintly imagined.

After the capture of Vassiladi, Sir F. Adam, Governor of the Ionian isles, had made several attempts to prevail with the garrison to capitulate upon reasonable terms. They declared their willingness to surrender the place, provided they were allowed to march out with their arms, ammunition, and baggage, and drums beating; but Ibrahim would listen to nothing short of unconditional surrender. The besieged still entertained hopes that they would receive suc-

cours by land, and daily expected to see an army of their countrymen descending Mount Aracynthus to their relief; but Providence had decreed that there was to be no relief for them but in their own valour. Fabvier had made an unsuccessful and disastrous attempt upon Negropont; Gouras remained idle upon the coast of Athens; Constantin Botzaris kept himself entrenched at Salona; and Karaiskaki, oppressed with sickness, attempted no diversion whatever.

On 16th April, the town was cut off from all its communications. On 17th and 18th, many townsmen, women, and children, perished of famine. On the 20th, Miaoulis made another attempt to break through the enemy's fleet, but was again unsuccessful. Still the horror of their situation could not conquer the obstinacy of the Greeks. The soldiers declared they were ready to perish on the breach; while the tradesmen and their wives determined to mine the town and perish under its ruins. At length, the chiefs having been assembled in council, it was resolved that the garrison, with arms in hand, should open to itself a passage through the ranks of the enemy. In consequence, they wrote to Karaiskaki, and other chiefs, whom they erroneously believed to be posted in the rear of the enemy, informing them of their resolution, which was to be put in execution on the 22d; and directing them to raise their camp on that day, and to co-operate with the garrison in making good a passage for the unarmed part of the population. They were farther directed to make a signal of their approach by firing their musketry on the heights of Mount Aracynthus. The letter containing these instructions was, by the treachery of a Bulgarian Greek, delivered into the hands of the enemy's general.

On the 22d, a census of the population was taken, when it was found there were 3000 soldiers, including the wounded who were able to march, 1000 workmen, who were not in a condition to fight, and 5000 burghers, women, and children. The young women insisted on accompanying the men in the sortie, and dressed and armed themselves as men. A number of positions within the walls of the town were speedily fortified; the mines were loaded; and those who were to remain declared their determination to defend themselves to the last extremity.

About six o'clock, the signal was heard of a salvo of musketry on Mount Aracynthus. The besieged at once assembled to complete their preparations. They collected planks upon which they might descend the ramparts, and disposed their cannons so that they might be thrown at once into the ditches. The powder was removed into the houses, within which those who were to be left behind were to entrench themselves. It was so arranged that a chosen troop should remain on the ramparts to alarm the enemy by a fire of musketry, and of a few pieces of artillery, while the advanced guard of those making the sortie approached the enemy's camp.

At the hour fixed, eight o'clock in the evening, the first column, composed of the best soldiers, chiefly Sulists, marched out of the city on the east side, between two batteries erected by Ibrahim; while the second, formed of Missolonghiots, their wives and children, were prepared to sally out by a bridge much nearer to the sea, and less exposed to the enemy's fire.

The noise caused by lowering the flying bridges, and the cries of women and children, intimated to the enemy that the sortie, of which their gene-

ral was apprised, had commenced. A sudden shower of balls and bullets was poured upon the first column from the two batteries, and the whole line of the enemy, but with little effect; for the Greek soldiers threw themselves on the ground, expecting an attack to be made on the enemy's camp from the rear by Karaïskaki, and to be joined by the second column; but at length, seeing no appearance of the former, and being pressed by the latter, they raised the cry of "Forward! Death to the barbarians!" and advanced, sword in hand, against the entrenchments of the Egyptians.

The second column appeared to have no alternative but to follow the route of the preceding one; but being smartly attacked by the enemy, and struck by the cries which resounded through the city, they were driven back upon the place, which was entered by the Turks and Egyptians along with them. Here a dreadful conflict commenced. Street after street, and house after house, were defended with all the rage of despair. They who fell into the hands of the Mussulmans were massacred without respect to age or sex. A number of females ran with their children to the wells in the neighbourhood, into which they threw both children and themselves. When the wells were full, many precipitated themselves into the sea; and a still greater number found death by rushing upon the Egyptian bayonets, or into the flames. About 1200 who could find death in no shape, fell into the hands of the enemy. A considerable body of wounded and sick soldiers, citizens, and women, had entrenched themselves within the powder magazine and the bastion of Botzaris, both of which were mined. The enemy rushed to the assault of the bastion; and about 2000 having found their way into it, an ex-

plosion took place, which tore the building from its foundation, and buried both conquerors and conquered under its ruins.

In the meantime, the first column had passed the two forts of Ibrahim, and crossed the entrenchments of the Egyptians, who were stupified by their romantic courage. It was to no purpose that they crossed their bayonets. The Greeks overcame every difficulty, and reached the country about half a league distant from Missolonghi. Here they were overtaken by a body of Egyptian cavalry, including Mamelukes, by whom the greater part were put to the sword. The rest pursued their route, and having been joined at the monastery of St Simeon by a band of the heroes of Clissova, at length gained Mount Aracynthus. There new dangers awaited them. The defiles were occupied by Albanians, whom Ibrahim Pacha had stationed there to intercept their retreat. The fire of these Albanians carried death into the ranks of the unfortunate fugitives, whose desperate impetuosity might have been unavailing, but for the timely arrival of a corps of 300 Greeks, commanded by Evangelis Contaghianni, upon the appearance of whom the Albanians took to flight.

Arrived at the heights of Mount Aracynthus, the heroic column counted its loss, which amounted to 500, including Generals Stournaris and Sadimas, Papa-dia Mautopolis, a member of the government, and other distinguished patriots. Oppressed with wounds, disease, and want, the survivors directed their course towards Salona, which they at length reached, with Nothis Botzaris, and Kitzas Tzavellos at their head. Many and painful were the deaths among them which occurred upon the road.

After the taking of Missolonghi, the troops of Ibrahim, as they surveyed the smoking ruins, and the

dead bodies of their comrades, blackened with fire and smoke, bore on their countenances the expression of defeat rather than of triumph. On the 22d alone, Ibrahim lost from 3000 to 4000 of his best soldiers. He compensated himself, in some degree, by selling from 3000 to 4000 of his female and infant captives into slavery, from which a considerable portion of them were afterwards redeemed at the expense of the Philhellenic Committees; and made the fame of his conquest known at Constantinople, by sending thither sacks full of the heads and ears of butchered Greeks.

The news of the downfall of Missolonghi produced, not only throughout Greece, but throughout all Christendom, the most profound and painful sensation; and men's attention was strongly directed to the question, How had the proceeds of the last loan negotiated in England for the support of the Greeks been appropriated? That loan had inspired the most sanguine hopes in the friends of the Greek cause; and it seemed certain, that had its proceeds been economically managed, and honestly and judiciously applied, the disasters which had befallen that cause might easily have been averted.

So far back as August 1825, Lord Cochrane, whose great qualifications for the office no one can doubt, engaged to take upon himself the command of the Greek fleet. Three of the London Greek committee, Sir Francis Burdett, and Messrs Hobhouse and Ellice, in concert with the Greek deputies, undertook to furnish his lordship with five steam-vessels, upon a plan furnished by himself, to defraying the expense of which a part of the loan of 1825 was specially appropriated. Sir Francis Burdett, and Messrs Hobhouse and Ellice, con-

vessels with a London engineer, whose incapacity was next to notorious, and who, besides, had a son in the service of the Pacha of Egypt. The vessels might have been completed and fitted out within a few months; and it is now well known, that, at different ports, Lord Cochrane had at his beck a number of picked seamen, both British and Americans, more than sufficient to have manned them. But the above triumvirate, instead of taking the engineer bound to complete the work within a given time, made the bargain with him as to time altogether indefinite. Repeatedly they were implored by the Greek deputies to urge the completion of the work, as the only means of saving Missolonghi and Greece; but they withstood every importunity with the most provoking indifference. The consequence was, that at the end of 1826 only two of these vessels were built, and lying in the Thames, and even these were totally unfit for the service to which they were destined.

In addition to the above five vessels, the Greek Committee commissioned the French cavalry-general Lallemand, (who was to be paid for his trouble the enormous sum of L.12,000,) in conjunction with a Greek agent (salaried at L.4000), to get two frigates constructed in America. The circumstance of intrusting such a transaction to a man like Lallemand, entirely ignorant of nautical affairs, is quite unaccountable, unless we are to suppose, that the committee conceived that his known *liberal* principles best entitled him to the job; but that they should have bestowed the enormous salaries of L.12,000 and L.4000 upon him and the Greek agent, to be paid out of the funds of a miserably poor nation, struggling under every financial difficulty, at the very time that they were invoking the people of this country, down to the hum-

blest mechanic, to contribute to the support of its cause, must excite the special wonder of every thinking person.

An application was made to two houses in New York, by Lallemand and the Greek agent, for the building of the frigates, and they agreed to finish both in six months, for 247,500 dollars each. In the space, however, of five months, the contractors had drawn for and received more, by 200,000 dollars, than the agreed on cost of both. The building of the frigates was not announced as near its completion, till eleven, instead of six months from its commencement, and then the demand made for each was raised to 550,000 dollars each; and the Greek agent was informed, that until the demand was complied with, the vessels should not be permitted to sail. At length the claims of the contractors were submitted to arbitration. The contractors maintained they were entitled to heavy commission for the risk they ran, on account of the two vessels having, under the United States' laws, been at all times subject to seizure and confiscation, although, at the time of entering into the contract,

they had assured the other party that the transaction was strictly legal, and that there was no risk whatever in completing it. The arbiters seem to have been as honest as the contractors. They awarded them 86,381 dollars for commission, and allowed them all their other charges. The consequence was, that while the contractors exercised their right of hypothec over the one frigate, only the other could be got out to sea; and this partly by providing security in America for implementing the award of the arbiters.

Several meetings of the Greek scrip-holders were held at London on 22d September, and subsequently, when exposures were made of various transactions, which reflect the deepest disgrace upon those implicated in them.* Over these we shall, in charity, draw a veil. Suffice it to say, that not a small portion of the loan of 1825, which was raised for the special purpose of relieving the immediate necessities of Greece, was applied to paying the interest upon, and extinguishing the principal of, former Greek loans, by which the Greek cause was grossly defrauded, and none but a few Philhellenists in

* The following is a statement by the Greek Committee, of the application of the loan of 1825 for two millions, the actual produce of which was stated at only L.1,110,000. The vagueness of the statement conceals the improper transactions we have alluded to:

Sums remitted to the Greek government	.	.	.	.	.	L.216,114	19	0
Paid for ammunition	.	.	.	.	.	16,500	0	0
Paid for cannon purchased in England	.	.	.	.	.	25,000,	0	0
Consigned for six steam-vessels	.	.	.	.	.	160,000	0	0
Consigned for two frigates ordered in America	.	.	.	.	.	156,600	0	0
Paid for purchase of arms and clothing for regular troops	.	.	.	.	.	15,350	0	0
Paid for purchasing scrip of the first and second loans, amounting to L.500,000,	.	.	.	.	.	228,700	0	0
Paid for the interest of these two loans	.	.	.	.	.	200,000	0	0
Paid for the redemption of these loans	.	.	.	.	.	20,000	0	0
Commission to Messrs Ricardo, the contractors for the loan	.	.	.	.	.	61,000	0	0!!!
Remaining in the hands of the Greek deputies	.	.	.	.	.	18,365	0	0

L.1,110,000 0 0

N. B. The Greek deputies refused to account for the application of the above balance !

this country, concerned in these loans, were the profitters. It was evident to all, that the cause had been culpably neglected by some, and swindled by others, who had been most clamorous on behalf of it. It was asked, what had the despotic government of Austria, with all its enmity towards the Greeks, done, or could it have done in the way of injury towards their cause, compared with that which had been inflicted upon it by certain liberty-preaching Englishmen? It is a curious circumstance, that while everything undertaken in this country on account of the Greeks was somehow baffled and defeated, various orders given here by the Egyptian pacha, for arms and ammunition, were executed with the utmost punctuality. As to the Greek government, it cannot escape reproaches. With even the sum of 1,216,114 remitted to it, it might have made efforts, which it failed to do, for the relief of Missolonghi.

The third Assembly of the Greek Representatives took place at Epidaurus, on 18th April, when Panuzzos Notaras was elected President. We mean not to notice at any length, the proceedings of a body which wanted power, and, above all, the confidence of those it affected to represent. It is, however, a circumstance deserving of notice, that, in the instructions given to most of the deputies, their constituents signified their wishes to have a king, instead of an oligarchy, such as had guided their affairs hitherto.

After a very animated discussion, the Assembly came to a resolution, to invoke the mediation of Great Britain with the Porte, on behalf of the Greek people. The terms upon which the Assembly expressed to Commodore Hamilton its willingness to treat with the Turks, were, that no Turk should inherit or possess property within the Greek territory; that the

whole fortresses should be delivered up to the Greeks; that the sultan should have nothing to do with the internal administration of the country; that the Greeks should be empowered to maintain an army and navy, for the protection of their country and their commerce; that the rights so claimed should be extended to the whole continental provinces and the islands which had been incorporated under the Greek government; that the Greeks should have their national flag, and the prerogative of coining money; and that a fixed tribute should be paid to the Porte, either annually, or once for all. A commission was appointed, with power to correspond with the British ambassador, in order to procure the mediation of his government upon the above terms; and, in the event of the Porte refusing the terms, to demand for Greece the support and protection of all the powers of Europe.

On 28th April the Assembly separated, after having named two Commissions, the one vested with the executive, the other with the legislative, powers of the state; which Commissions were installed at Napoli the day following.

Notwithstanding the rigorous measures adopted by the British, French, and Austrian admirals in the Mediterranean, which were heartily seconded by Admiral Miaoulis, piracy continued to be carried on by Greek mystics to a very great extent; to repress which, the Provisional Government issued a severe decree on 8th June.

The plan of the campaign, on the part of the enemy, appears to have been, that, upon the capture of Missolonghi, Ibrahim should collect his whole troops, and, after securing his communication with the harbours of Modon, Coron, and Navarin, com-

plete the conquest of the Morea, support the operations of Redeschid Pacha upon Attica, and conclude by reducing Napoli.

While Redeschid Pacha advanced from Missolonghi against Attica, with a division of 8000 men, a body of regular troops, under Mehmed Delibassy, proceeded to Calavrita, ravaging the whole country in its route. Another, with Ibrahim himself at its head, after threatening Napoli, directed its course towards Modon, where it was joined by 3000 fresh troops from Egypt. With an army, amounting to from 7000 to 8000 men, he next advanced against Maina, the ancient Sparta, and attacked a body of Mainotes, who were strongly posted at Verga. They defended themselves so well, that Ibrahim was compelled to retreat with a loss of about 500 men. At the same time, a body of 15,000 Arabs were landed from the fleet at Dyro, also in Maina; and, after burning a number of villages, were encountered by a Greek force under Constantine Mavromichalis, who drove them back to the coast, where they took up a strong position under the protection of their ships; but being besieged and spiritedly attacked both by the Greek soldiers and the inhabitants of the country, they were glad to embark, after a few hours' fighting, with considerable loss. A second attempt, made a few days afterwards by Ibrahim upon the Mainote entrenchments at Verga, was completely defeated; and Ibrahim retired to Calamata, from which he sent out detachments to ravage the surrounding country.

In the month of July, Redeschid Pacha arrived beneath the walls of Athens; and at his approach, the women, children, and artisans, as on former occasions, deserted it. The garrison, amounting to about 1500, was too feeble to defend the walls against

the assaults of the enemy, who broke through them on 15th August, and advancing from street to street, at length planted his batteries against the Acropolis, into which the garrison had retired.

In the meantime, a body of troops, consisting of about 5000 irregulars, under Karaïskaki, and 600 regulars under Fabvier, which had been dispatched by the Provisional Government to the relief of Athens, landed at the Piræus. Fabvier proposed to attack the Turks at once and upon the plain, while they were dispersed and ignorant of the Greeks having landed; but the Greek general, perhaps with more judgment, hesitated to risk the fate of the expedition in a pitched battle. On the morning of the 17th, the Romelioti advanced to the heights which separate the plain of Eleusis from that of Athens, when again Fabvier vainly urged Karaïskaki to attack the Turks, who were now apprised of their approach. On the 18th, at day-break, Redeschid Pacha directed an attack to be made upon the Greek positions at Thaidari by 1000 infantry and cavalry. The fire of these troops caused much loss to the Greeks, who advanced against the enemy with rapidity and firmness. The combat lasted upwards of five hours; but at length the enemy retreated, leaving behind the whole of his artillery, and a number of killed and wounded.

Notwithstanding this advantage, the Greeks were in no condition to attack the Turks in their entrenchments, and returned to their positions. On the 20th, Redeschid Pacha having been reinforced by Omer Pacha, attacked the Greeks with the whole of his forces. The Greek regulars in vain attempted to sustain the charge, and take up a new position; they lost four pieces of English cannon, *three of which burst at the first discharge*; and, in attempting to regain the Py-

raus, sustained a heavy loss in killed and prisoners. The irregulars seemed bereft of all courage, and made a disorderly retreat to the plain of Eleusis, while the Turks returned to their entrenchments, against which Gouras, who commanded in the Acropolis, by some unaccountable neglect, had made not the slightest demonstration during the engagement.

The French Rear-Admiral de Rigny, whose frigate was anchored at Salamine, and the Count d' Harcourt, the deputy of the Philhellenic committee at Paris, had come upon land to witness the engagement; and, on observing its issue, the former sent boats to Eleusis, to conduct the wounded Greeks on board his ship, where they were attended by French surgeons. He also visited the Seraskier in his camp, and prevailed with him to set at liberty such of the wounded Greeks as had fallen into his hands. On the 22d, the Seraskier, with Omer Pacha, visited Admiral de Rigny on board his frigate, where they had the singular fortune to meet their two adversaries Karaïskaki and Fabvier, with whom they exchanged such civilities as might have been expected from men of the world.

After the battle of the 20th, and down to the end of the year, the garrison of the Acropolis made repeated and vigorous sorties, which produced no results.

On the 27th July, the fleet of the Capitan Pacha, with troops on board, presented itself before Samos, which it meant to attack; but the Greek fleet, consisting of 30 vessels, and commanded by Sachtouri, arrived in time to defeat the design. While the inhabitants of the island were betaking themselves to the mountains, Sachtouri took up a position on the coast. After several ineffectual attempts to break the Greek line, the Capitan Pacha, on 1st August, directed a general attack to

be made upon it by his whole fleet, which consisted of two ships of the line, seven frigates, and fifteen other vessels. After a spirited action, the Turks were completely repulsed. On the side of the Greeks, the brave Canaris received a severe wound, which was dressed by a French surgeon. On the 11th September, the Capitan Pacha made a new attempt on Samos, which led to an engagement between the two fleets of thirty-four hours' duration, and had the same result as the former. The Capitan Pacha, having approached the isle, in order to embark his troops, was attacked by Sachtouri, when the action became general. Often was it suspended, and as often renewed with equal courage on both sides. At length, the Turkish Admiral retired to the coast of Asia without being pursued, and soon afterwards returned to the Dardanelles.

Ibrahim Pacha, with his numerous army, continued to overrun and lay waste the open country; and though he received some new checks in Maina, which were greatly magnified in the Greek journals, he might justly be considered undisputed master of the whole open country. A new expedition was planned by the Greeks for raising the siege of Athens. It was arranged that while Karaïskaki should land at the Pyraus, Fabvier should march upon Thebes, which was the point of communication between the Seraskier and his troops in Livadia. In the meantime, Karatasso invaded the isle of Eubœa, which had been drained of troops, and carried away a great booty in cattle, which, fortunately, was conveyed into the Acropolis. Ibrahim, apprised of the danger which the Seraskier would incur by the concentration of the Greek forces, hastened from Maina to Tripolitza, with the intention of intercepting the troops which were marching across the Isthmus to join Karaïskaki. After

having a skirmish, on 28th October, with the troops of Colocotroni and Mikitas, within a few leagues of Napoli, he returned to Tripolitza and then proceeded to Modon, where the Egyptian fleet had arrived with stores of ammunition and provisions.

At this time, there arrived in the port of Napoli a steam-vessel, the *Perseverance*, carrying from eight to twelve guns, fitted out at London, and also the frigate built in America, the *Hellas*, both destined for the Greek service; as also, considerable supplies of stores from Paris and Geneva. These arrivals, accompanied by the assurance that Lord Cochrane would speedily follow to take the command of the fleet, tended much to support the courage both of government and the people.

Redschid Pacha, towards the close of the year, found himself in a state of difficulty and embarrassment from the want of provisions, and other causes. General Coletti had made an incursion upon the side of Talenti, and several tribes of Mount Olympus had risen in arms. Against these the Seraskier dispatched a force of 2000 men under the command of his Kiaia Bey, Mosuta Bey. Arrived near to Arachova on 30th November, they found 500 Greeks posted in a strong position, from which they were driven, after a stout defence, and the position was taken possession of by the enemy. Karaiskaki, how-

ever, soon arrived with his troops, and drove the Turks from the place to another position, where they were speedily surrounded by their pursuers. The Turks made several charges, all of which were repulsed; and, at length, they demanded leave to return to their camp upon giving hostages. The Greeks offered them their lives, upon condition that they laid down their arms and all that was valuable about them, and that they retired to Salona and Livadia, leaving Mousa Bey as a hostage behind them. At last, the Turks, after having been eight days without bread and water, resolved to cut a passage for themselves through the ranks which encircled them; and, on 18th December, after sun-set, they rushed from their entrenchments upon those of the Greeks, who received them with the greatest intrepidity. The conflict was most sanguinary. Finally, the enemy succeeded in escaping from the place, but with the loss of 1300 men, the Kiaia Bey, and his principal officers, besides two standards, and the whole of their baggage. The Greeks estimated their loss so inconceivably low as eight men. No event of importance occurred after this exploit of the Greeks; but it remains to be mentioned, that certain combined movements, made by Karaiskaki, Karatasso, and Coletti, to raise the siege of Athens, were unattended with any result.

CHAPTER XIV.

United States of America—Mexico—States of South America.

THE session of the congress of the United States for 1826 was opened on 6th December, of the previous year. In the President's message on the occasion, it was remarked, alluding to the recent renewal of diplomatic missions between Great Britain and the United States, that assurances had been given and received of the continuance and increase of the mutual confidence and cordiality by which the adjustment of many points of difference had been already effected, and which afforded the surest pledge for the ultimate satisfactory adjustment of those which still remained open, or might arise. It was observed, that the proposal made by the act of Congress 3d March, 1816, to all the maritime nations, to lay aside the system of retaliating restrictions and exclusions, and to place the shipping of both parties to the common trade on a footing of equality, in respect to duties, had been partially and successively adopted by Great Britain, Sweden, the Netherlands, the Hanseatic towns, Prussia, Sardinia, Oldenburgh, Russia, and lastly France. It also referred to a mass of claims of indemnity which citizens of the States had upon France, for property taken or destroyed "under circumstances

of the most aggravated and outrageous character," and the hesitation of the French government to reply to the representations made by the American minister on the subject. It further alluded to similar claims upon the Netherlands, Naples, and Denmark. The message then proceeded to notice the relations of the United States with the new American republics; and went into a lengthened detail of domestic affairs, suggesting various improvements in their social institutions. It farther stated, that a treaty of navigation and commerce had been concluded with Colombia; and that the United States had been invited to send representatives to the Congress about to be assembled at Panama, and accepted the invitation.

On 17th March, the President sent a message to the House of Representatives, requiring a provision to be made for the expense of a mission, on the part of the United States, to the Congress of Panama. It was of extreme length, and not very interesting. It laid down some principles which might admit of being questioned. For example, in reply to one objection made to the mission, that it might give offence to the Holy Alliance; the President observed, that since the United States had

never interfered in the affairs of Europe, the powers of Europe could not be permitted to meddle with those of America. This reasoning appears to us anything but logical. The abstinence of the United States from foreign politics may have been owing to their having no interest in them, direct or indirect, or from a sense that they could not interfere with effect, excepting to injure themselves; but such abstinence, arising wholly from selfishness, could never be regarded as creating a new rule in the law of nations which other governments were bound to observe. The attempts to assign geographical boundaries to the right of interference was whimsical and absurd. Abstractedly, the affairs of South America were as foreign to the United States as to any of the nations of Europe. The comparative remoteness of the latter could be of no consequence, since between nations ever so remote most important relations may be formed and established. It is diplomacy and commerce, not propinquity of situation, that create the most interesting ties between nations, and it is out of these that the right of interference most naturally springs.

The message underwent much discussion, both in the Senate and the House of Representatives. The proposed mission was resisted by many of the members from the southern states, who disliked any close connexion being formed with the new republics, on account of their having abolished slavery within their respective territories; but at length, it was fully sanctioned by considerable majorities.

In both the legislative bodies a strong opposition was formed of the partisans of General Jackson, and Mr Crawford, two of the unsuccessful candidates for the presidency at the last election; and nearly the whole session was consumed in the most

violent reproaches and recriminations between them and the supporters of administration. The accusation of *bribery*, in particular, was bandied about from one to another in a way truly edifying to all who suppose that corruption is peculiar to monarchical governments. Owing to the dissensions which prevailed, the public business was, in a great measure, impeded, or rather neglected; and the only act of any importance that distinguished the session was one authorizing the survey of a line for a canal across the isthmus of Florida, for connecting the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico.

On 28th April the President, with consent of the Senate, concluded a treaty with the Creek Indians, by which the latter ceded to the United States their whole territory in Georgia, in consideration of which the States engaged to pay them immediately 217,600 dollars, and a perpetual annuity of 20,000 dollars; to allot to the partisans of the Creek Chief McIntosh, a district of country west of the Mississippi, to be at the expense of transporting them thither, and supply them with provisions for twelve months after their arrival; and besides, to pay to them a sum, according to their number, in the proportion of 100,000 dollars to 300,000 persons. The senators and members of the House of Representatives from Georgia, entered their protest against the above treaty.

This year the United States sustained a melancholy loss in the death of two of their ex-presidents and founders of their republic—John Adams and Thomas Jefferson; and it is not a little singular, that both died on the same day, and about the same hour.

From official statements, it appeared, that the United States had made very considerable progress in manu-

factures. Their yearly importation of wool had increased to nearly eleven millions of dollars in value; the capital engaged in manufactures of all kinds exceeded forty millions, which gave employment to 600,000 individuals, and produced goods amounting to about thirty millions in value, per annum.

The receipts of the national treasury for 1825, amounted to 28,787,455 dollars, 15 cents, and the expenditure to 23,585,804d. 72c., the excess of the former over the latter being thus 5,201,650d. 43c. The expenditure consisted of 2,748,544d. 89c., for the civil list; 5,692,831d. 19c., for the military service; 3,049,083d. 86c. for the navy; and 12,095,344d. 78c. for the interest and redemption of the national debt. The treasury receipts for the three first quarters of 1826, amounted to 19,585,983d. 50c., and the expenditure to 18,714,226d. 66c. The receipts for the whole of that year were estimated by the secretary of the treasury at 25,885,932d. 52c. and including the surplus of 1825, at 31,087,582d. 93c., and the expenditure at 24,662,043d. 96c. The amount of the national debt on 1st October, 1826, was 75,923,151d. 47c.

The Congress of Panama, which had been so impatiently expected, opened its sittings on 22d June. Had the stability and power of the new states which it represented been at all commensurate with the extent of their territories, or had their governments and people possessed a dignity of moral character, corresponding in any degree with the nominal freedom of their institutions, this Congress would have been the most august and imposing that ever assembled. As it was, it too faithfully reflected that indecision of purpose, and that vague and imperfect knowledge, combined with a much larger proportion of surviving

ignorance and prejudice, which are the characteristics of their constituents. The Congress consisted of deputies from only four of the new states, Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, and Colombia, and was attended by a commissioner for Great Britain, Mr Dawkins, and two commissioners for the United States. The opening speech of its President, Don Manuel Vidaurre, deputy for Peru, and a great lawyer, treated, *de omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis*, excepting such things as were any way pertinent to the objects for which the Congress was convened. It became the subject of universal ridicule, and threw an air of burlesque over the whole proceedings of the Congress. The effects of the climate produced a speedy dispersion of this body. Mr Anderson, one of the commissioners for the United States, and two secretaries of the British plenipotentiary fell victims to it. The Congress speedily closed its sittings, after having, on 15th July, signed a treaty of union and perpetual confederation, between the powers represented at it, to which the other American powers were invited to accede; and a convention, which fixed the contingent to which each state was liable for the common defence. It was resolved, that the Congress should resume its sittings at Tacubaya, in the neighbourhood of the city of Mexico, but no time for its doing so was determined on; from which we infer, that its members were sufficiently tired of each other.

On 2d January, the Mexican Congress opened its sittings. From a report of the minister of finance, it appeared that the coinage in the national mints had, in the first eight months of 1825, risen to 7,889,044 dollars, and was upon the increase; that the whole receipts for the treasury of 1825, amounted to 17,658,942,

and its expenditure, comprehending the interest of foreign loans, to 16,666,463 dollars.

A committee of the senate reported, that the Mexican nation ought to resist the extravagant pretensions of the court of Rome; and that while it acknowledged the Catholic religion to be that of the state, the Congress should have the nomination to all vacant bishoprics, but pay to the Holy See, for this assumption of the right of patronage, a yearly voluntary oblation of 100,000 pesos. This proposal was afterwards adopted as a law, with considerable modifications.

The session of Congress closed on the 23d May, after it had passed four resolutions; the *first*, that the republic would listen to no proposition to be made by Spain, or by any other power, which had not for its basis a recognition of the republic's complete independence; *second*, that it would never accede to any demand made by Spain, or any other power on its behalf, for indemnity or tribute, as a compensation for the loss by Spain of its former supremacy; *third*, that any Mexican who should, by writing, or *viva voce*, publicly or privately, within the Mexican territory, or out of it, make any proposal repugnant to the first of these resolutions, should be held guilty of high treason, and punished with death; *fourth*, that any Mexican who should, in like manner, propose anything in opposition to the second resolution, should be punished with imprisonment for eight years.

In a message addressed to the Colombian Congress, upon the 2d of January, a vague allusion was made to a project which had been entertained by the government, in concert with that of Mexico, for the invasion of Cuba, but which certain circumstances had induced them to abandon.

A variety of reports were soon afterwards submitted to Congress, by the different ministers of state. The one by the minister of the Interior, in noticing the progress of cultivation, stated, that two societies for the encouragement of colonization from Europe, having a capital of six millions and a half of piastres, had lately received a grant of, and exposed to sale, 600,000 fanegas of land; and the minister demanded that another million should be added to the three millions which government was already authorized by law to dispose of to European emigrants. He also suggested the propriety of having all the great roads repaired; the encouragement of the manufactures of woollens and cottons, which had gone into decay; the introduction of machinery and steam-vessels; the extension of the Lancasterian system of education; the suppression of all convents which had not more than eight priests; a reform of the law regarding religious bequests; and a prohibition against either man or woman taking religious vows before the age of twenty years. Most of these suggestions were adopted as laws by the Congress.

The report of the finance minister was melancholy in the extreme. It appeared from it that the army alone more than devoured the whole revenue of the country. The total expenditure for 1826 was estimated at 15,487,719 dollars; and the whole receipts that could be calculated upon amounted to only 6,196,725 dollars!

On the 14th of May, the constitutional term for the election of a president and a vice-president having arrived, Bolivar was re-elected to the former office by 583 votes out of 608, and Santander was unanimously re-elected to the latter office. Both had expressed anxiety to be allowed to retire into private life, but events

occurred which gave a disastrous turn to the political position and affairs of the republic, and rendered their experience and the authority of their names indispensable to its salvation.

General Paez, military commander of Venezuela, had executed with extraordinary rigour in that province, where it was very unpopular, the militia law of 31st August, 1824; and it was particularly objected to him, that of his own authority, and not in concert with the civil power, he had employed the soldiery to arrest such individuals as were subject to the law, but had failed, after three repeated summonses, to enrol themselves; and that in discharging such duty, the soldiers indulged in gratuitous cruelties, at the expense of the reluctant conscripts. This conduct of Paez was denounced to the Congress by the intendant general, Escalona, and municipality of Caraccas; and, notwithstanding the weighty influence possessed by Paez in the army, on account of his exploits, his great wealth, and, above all, his connexion with the Mulattoes, the House of Representatives, on 6th March, had the courage, by a great majority, to decree his impeachment. On the 30th, the Senate admitted the impeachment, suspended the general from his functions, and directed him to be replaced by General Escalona.

There were two parties in the republic, one who desired the entire rights of sovereignty to be vested in the central government; another who conceived that a federal system, such as that which obtained in the United States and in Mexico, was the only one of a democratical character that was adapted to a republic of such amazing extent as that of Colombia, and consisting of so many different provinces. In fixing the constitution of 1821, the former party prevailed, only a clause was introduced into it,

which subjected it to a revision in 1831, and to such changes as might then be found necessary; but experience of the many inconveniences and evils resulting from the system which was adopted—of governing by delegated authority provinces situate at an immense distance from the centre of power, had added greatly to the strength of the federal party, particularly in Venezuela. With this party Paez thought proper to coalesce; and, instead of repairing to Bogota, as he had been directed, to answer the articles of impeachment, he placed himself at the head of it.

On 5th May, the city of Valencia revolted against the government; and both the municipality and citizens, after having placed Escalona and his officers under arrest, implored Paez to resume the command of the troops, and bestow upon Venezuela a separate administration. Paez at first hesitated, and made many protestations of his fidelity to the constitution. In the meantime, the seditious spirit of Valencia had communicated itself even to the city of Caraccas, from which the accusations against the general had emanated; and the citizens, having been convoked by their magistracy, resolved to accede to the measures pursued by the people of Valencia; to dispatch a mission to Bolivar, then in Peru, imploring him to return to his native soil, and exert his great influence with the whole provinces, in order to have a grand national assembly convoked for the immediate revision of the constitution; and to nominate Paez civil and military chief of Venezuela, with full authority to raise troops for the protection of the territory and peace of the province, until the arrival of the Liberator.

In a few days the cities upon the coast, such as La Guayra and Porto Cabello, and also the plains of Apure,

gave in their adherence to the cause of federalism, and declared Bolivar dictator, and Paez his lieutenant, with the uncontrolled power of levying soldiers, taxes, and forced loans. General Bermudes, who commanded at Cumana, alone remained faithful to his duty.

In the meantime, the financial embarrassment of the government had reached its acme. Peru had in vain tried to raise a loan which might have enabled it to pay the debt which it owed to Colombia; the bills of exchange drawn by the Colombian government upon the London bankers had been dishonoured; and there were wanting the means of either paying the interest due upon foreign loans, or of upholding the army. Under these circumstances, the Vice-President of new convened the Congress on 3d May; and on the 19th, that body passed a law recognising all the foreign loans that had been contracted, and assigning for the payment of their interest, the revenue of tobacco, the eighth of the customs, and the produce of the national lands which had been sold or allocated, and of the national mines. The other revenues were appropriated to payment of the domestic debt; and their excess to the extinction of the foreign. Congress also made considerable additions to the import duties; after which it separated, and M. Foley was dispatched to London as agent for the government, with some funds but more promises, and instructed to uphold the credit of the republic in that great money-market of the world.

The first news received from Bolivar announced his speedy return from Peru, in order to reconcile the differences which had arisen in his absence. In a letter, replying to one addressed to him by Santander, he condemned the harsh measures which had been adopted towards General

Paez. In the whole correspondence that was maintained between the President and Vice-President, there was an extreme dryness, and a ceremonious tone observed, which showed a total want of harmony between them. That Bolivar, who was at the head of the state, and also chief of the army, should, instead of supporting the executive, have sided with Paez, whose conduct, whatever were his motives, amounted to disobedience to the power which he was bound to obey, to treason against the government which it was his sworn duty to support—to that crime, in short, which, when committed, in a free state, by an officer intrusted with a military command, ought never to be forgiven, inspired many with serious doubts of the Liberator's disinterestedness and patriotism. That the Constitution of 1821 was chiefly his own work, and that he had sworn to defend it to the last drop of his blood, only made his proceedings the more enigmatical and suspicious. It was possible that experience had convinced him that the constitution was defective and faulty; but since it had to be revised at all events in 1831, where was the necessity of anticipating the period of revision? It was shrewdly suspected that Paez would not have dared to resist the government and declare against the Constitution, but in consequence of an understanding with Bolivar, whose influence was all-powerful with both the army and people. It was no less suspected, that the constitution had been framed with a special view to Bolivar's advancement; for at first it was only experimental, and liable to the most obvious objections, particularly that, were the federal plan rejected, the only government that could hold the vast provinces composing the republic together, must be possessed of the vigour of despotism. In addition to these considerations, Bolivar

had, in some recent proceedings of his in Peru, betrayed symptoms of an overbearing and arbitrary temper; and it is not a little remarkable that the Colombian army in Peru, were about that time infected with the same suspicions of his political integrity which were entertained by their countrymen.

Bolívar, on his route from Lima, entered Guayaquil on 22d September; on which occasion the people declared for the federal system. He was detained some time at Quito, in quelling disturbances which had taken place in that province. In the meantime, the insurrection in Venezuela had assumed a still more serious character. At Caraccas, on 6th November, an assembly of the people was held in the barracks, where, surrounded by bayonets, they declared the complete independence of the province, but engaged to send deputies to a general Congress of Colombia, that Venezuela might be charged with its proportion of the public debt. Consequent upon that meeting, Páez issued a decree, directing the different colleges to proceed to the election of deputies, who were to compose the Venezuelan Legislature, which was to assemble on 10th January.

General Bermudes had thought proper to blockade, with 400 men, the town of Cumana, which had declared for the federal system; and on 19th November, an engagement commenced between his troops and the militia of the place, which ended in his being obliged to retreat to Barcelona.

On the same day, Bolívar made his entry into Bogota, under triumphal arches, amidst the acclamations of the people, and accompanied by all the constituted authorities. He was congratulated by Santander, in a long speech, upon his return. In his reply, he implored the Colombian people to lay aside and forget all

their past dissensions, and assured them, that having devoted his life to the independence and liberty of their common country, all his cares would be bestowed on upholding its union, and the authority of the laws.

On the 28th November, a decree was issued by Bolívar, in which it was stated that the country was on the eve of a civil war, and was farther threatened with an invasion by the Spaniards from Cuba; that therefore the case provided for by article 128th of the constitution had arisen, in which case the president was authorized to assume extraordinary powers, and bound to convoke a congress without delay: And, for these reasons, he, as president, did assume the extraordinary powers which the charter entitled him to under the circumstances, and invested the vice-president with the same powers, in the event of his (Bolívar's) absence from the capital.

Having arrived at Maracaibo, on 19th December, Bolívar issued directions, that the departments of Maturing, Venezuela, Orinooko, and Zulia, should be subject to his particular orders only; and by a decree issued at Valencia, he, after observing that Páez, though he had been very culpable, *had saved his country*, confirmed that general in the civil and military command of Venezuela, and extended to the conduct of all others amnesty and oblivion.

The state of Peru next demands our attention. While Bolívar was in Upper Peru, (Bolivia,) Rodil, the brave governor of Callao, after having lost 4000 of his men by famine, disease, and the fire of the besiegers, and expended his whole ammunition, consented, on 22d January, to surrender the place, which was the last upon the continent that remained to Spain, to the Peruvian forces. The

terms of the surrender were, that the garrison should march out with the honours of war, and be conveyed to Spain in British transports, at the expense of the Peruvian government ; and that there should be a complete amnesty for all who were in the place at the time of its surrender. The Marquis of Torretagla, ex-president of Peru, who and Berindoaga, ex-minister of war, from hatred of Bolivar, were the chief agents by whom Callao had been restored to the dominion of Spain, had fallen a victim to disease in the course of the siege ; but Berindoaga, less fortunate, in attempting to escape on board of a foreign vessel, was seized by the Peruvians ; and was some time afterwards, along with one Teron, who was involved in his offence, condemned to death ; and, notwithstanding the most moving intercessions made with Bolivar for his life by the whole authorities of Lima, he and Teron were shot, in pursuance of their sentence ; and Berindoaga's corpse, clothed in the garb of a criminal, was suspended during the day upon a gibbet. Berindoaga had declared to his judges, that he was the victim of Bolivar's personal hostility ; and his execution certainly did not tend to exalt the Liberator in public opinion.

The Congress having assembled, the majority of its members, including the most talented and influential, exhibited a strong desire that Bolivar should divest himself of his dictatorial functions ; at which Bolivar took great offence, and threatened to quit Peru, with the whole of his army, and leave it a prey to its intestine factions. Afterwards, the Congress, from the force of an influence which may be easily conceived, supplicated him to continue in possession of his functions ; to which, with apparent reluctance, he acceded.

Having reconciled himself, at least in appearance, to the Peruvian Congress, Bolivar set out for Potosi, the capital of Bolivia, with the scheme of a constitution for that republic, which he recommended to the people in long addresses, in which anarchy was represented as no less fatal to liberty than despotism. With more correctness he might have said, that anarchy is the certain harbinger of despotism. His plan was, that every ten citizens should nominate a person as an elector for the legislative body, so that at the elections, the people would be represented by a tenth of their number ; that there should be three legislative chambers, one of Tribunes, who alone should have the power to enact laws touching the revenue, and to declare peace and war ; one of Senators, who should have the superintendence of the tribunals and religion ; and one of Censors, who should resemble the Athenian Arcopagi and Roman Censors, and be the guardians of the constitution. It was proposed that the powers of the President should be vested in him for life ; and that he should have the command of the army, and the appointment to all offices, both in the army and connected with the revenue. To complete this plan of government, it was farther proposed, that the Vice-President for the time being should be the President's successor by right, and that the internal administration should be conducted by means of Prefects. This plan, of course, met with no opposition from a people who crouched under Colombian bayonets, and was unanimously adopted by them ; after which, Bolivar returned to Lower Peru, having intrusted the provisional exercise of his powers as President to the Grand Marshal of Ayacucho.

The above scheme of government, it is evident, contains all the germs of a monarchy ; and, to be republican,

is altogether a solecism, especially as in effect it renders the chief magistrate wholly uncontrolled and irresponsible. It was believed, and events in some measure justified the belief, that its author designed a similar constitution for Lower Peru and Colombia; and there were some who went so far as to suspect that he aimed at nothing less than a triple crown.

In Lima, the dislike of the Colombian army and Bolivar rose to a dangerous height. On 25th July, Bolivar went to the theatre, where he was coldly received; and after sitting some time, astonished the audience by going hurriedly out; after which, the guards were doubled, and a number of officers thrown into prison. It was alleged that a plot had been discovered for taking away the president's life. Next day, more officers were arrested; and among others, three generals and eight colonels. It was now given out that the plot had its ramifications in the provinces, where also a number of arrests and banishments took place; but nothing ever was proved to fix guilt upon any one.

On 18th August, the Electoral College of the province of Lima, which, like the other colleges, had previously been arbitrarily remodelled by Bolivar upon the requisition of a small minority of the Congress, assembled to deliberate upon the form of a constitution most suitable to Peru; when it was decided, that the one recently conferred on the republic of Bolivia, ought to be adopted; and that Bolivar should be declared perpetual president. The same resolutions were afterwards adopted by the other electors throughout the republic; and on 9th October, the new constitution was solemnly promulgated. At the same time, a treaty of friendship and alliance, offensive and defensive, was concluded between Peru and Bolivia,

which thus, in effect, became one state, and assumed the name of the Bolivian Federation.

Previously to this, Bolivar had set out on his return to Colombia, after having adjourned the meeting of Congress for one year, and conferred the supreme government of Peru, during his absence, upon the Grand Marshal Don Andrea de Santa Cruz, to be assisted by a council of ministers of Bolivar's nomination; and the command of the auxiliary Colombian army upon General Jacintho Lara.

Amidst many distractions, the Chilean government, at the commencement of the year, made a successful effort to wrest the Chiloe islands from Spain. The expedition engaged in that enterprise was commanded by the Supreme Director, General Freyre, and sailed from Valdivia on 2d January, and arrived on the 10th in the roadstead of Yuste. On the night of that day, the advanced guard surprised and captured the battery of Balcacura, which defended the port of San Carlos. Next day that port was entered by the fleet; while the troops on land advanced against a difficult position, called Polquillihue, which was occupied by 200 Spaniards. On the 14th, this position was cannonaded by the fleet; and at length carried by some companies of grenadiers, who drove the Spaniards to another position called Bellavista, from which also they were dislodged, with the loss of their provisions, artillery, and ammunition. The Spaniards next retreated to the fortress of Callao; but on the 19th, agreed to a capitulation, by the terms of which the Chiloe islands were to be incorporated with Chili; the artillery, arms, ammunition, colours, and stores, within the fortress, were to belong to the Chilean army; and the officers and soldiers of the garrison were to be conveyed to Eu-

rope at the expense of Chili, or, if they preferred it, to be allowed to settle in the Chilian territory.

Shortly afterwards, some disturbances, excited by the emissaries of O'Higgins, the former supreme director, who resided at Lima, took place in San Carlos, upon the continent; the inhabitants of which, on 25th May, in a general assembly, resolved that, without separating from the Chilian republic, they should have for themselves a particular government, at the head of which they placed Don Manuel Fuentes. The other states having manifested similar sentiments, the national Congress, which had assembled for the express purpose of framing a constitution, resolved, on 11th July, by a majority of 34 votes out of 36, and declared as a fundamental law, that the republic should be organized upon the federal system.

The period of General Freyre's retiring from the office of Supreme Director having arrived, Admiral Blanco was appointed his successor; but he having resigned on 7th September, General Freyre was recalled to office.

On 20th November, at Santiago, a treaty of alliance, commerce, and navigation, was concluded between Chili and Buenos Ayres. By one of its articles, the integrity of the territories of both powers was mutually guaranteed; and both engaged to act in concert against any foreign power whatever that should attempt to change the territorial limits of either of them. This clause, it is probable, was suggested by a jealousy of Bolivar, whose proceedings had given great offence to both republics, especially by the erection of the new republic of Bolivia, which Buenos Ayres refused to recognise, as it comprehended within its limits several provinces which had

formerly belonged to the Buenos-Ayresan Viceroyalty.

The constituent general assembly of the Argentine republic having assembled upon 7th February, proceeded to the election of a president, when their choice fell upon Don Bernardino Rivadavia, formerly minister for foreign affairs. Soon afterwards, Congress appointed a committee to investigate the question, whether the constitution to be framed for the republic should be upon the principle of unity or federation? The committee reported that the provinces of Cordova, Mendoza, San Juan, and Santiago, had pronounced for a federal government; that those of Salta, Tucuman, and Rioja, were prepared to submit to the decision of Congress; and that those of Buenos Ayres, Santa Fe, and Entrerios, as also the missions and the Eastern Province, had hitherto expressed no opinion on the subject: That the committee, having considered the advantages and disadvantages of both systems, particularly with reference to the circumstances of the different provinces, had resolved that the form of government ought to be representative and republican, embodying the principle of unity.

The war between the republic and Brazil still continued; but was feebly conducted on both sides, so much so, that no engagement, deserving the name of one, took place either by land or sea. However, the Brazilians remained masters of the mouth of the Plata, and enforced the blockade of Buenos Ayres with such strictness, as to give rise to many complaints on the part of foreign powers, particularly the United States.

On 14th September Lord Ponsonby arrived at Buenos Ayres, as envoy extraordinary from Great Britain to the republic. The special object of

his mission was, to exert himself in procuring an amicable arrangement of differences between the republic and Brazil. He had failed, when at Rio, in all his efforts to persuade the emperor to make concessions; and it would appear that he was not more successful with the republican government.

The republic, in the meantime, was threatened with serious dangers from intestine commotions. The provinces of Cordova, Rioja, and Tarija, refused to recognise the authority of the President, or the validity of any constitution not upon the federal principle; while the weight of the imposts, and a forced levy for the army of all males between sixteen and forty years, occasioned a general insurrection in Tucuman, Catamarca, and other districts. The insurgents were suppressed by the regular troops which were sent against them; but the districts in question still continued a prey to almost every species of disorder.

The congress terminated the work of a constitution on 24th December. It resolved, in defiance of the general opinion of its constituents, that the constitution should be founded upon the principal of unity, and that the sovereignty of the state should be vested in three distinct powers,—a Chamber of Senators and of Representatives; a President, to be chosen for a limited period by the provincial jundos, and having the power to appoint, with advice and consent of the Senate, the governors of provinces; and a High Court of Justice, to which all other tribunals were to be subject.

The most important transaction in which Brazil was this year concerned, was a treaty of friendship and commerce, concluded, on 8th January, between it and France, on the principle of reciprocity. We have already noticed, under the head of Portugal,

the resignation by the emperor of his right to the crown of that kingdom, in favour of his daughter Dona Maria da Gloria.

On his return from Bahia, the republican spirit of whose inhabitants had demanded his presence, to Rio Janeiro, the Emperor caused to be solemnly proclaimed in all the provinces the constitution which the previous year he had submitted to his subjects for their approbation; and he himself was the first to take the oath to it. About the same time, on 16th April, he established a new order of knighthood, called that of "Pedro the First, Founder of the Brazilian Empire;" and made a large distribution of its decorations among the principal personages of his court and army, and the two chambers.

The session of the two chambers was opened on 6th May, on which occasion they were addressed by the emperor in a speech, in which he spoke of the tranquillity enjoyed by the empire, with the exception of the Cisplatine province—the recognition of its independence—the death of his royal father—and the arrangements he had made with regard to Portugal; and pointed out the subjects which ought chiefly to occupy the attention of the chambers. To this speech, suitable addresses, in reply, were voted.

On 10th June, M. Ledo presented to the Chamber of Representatives the project of a law upon the liberty of the press, which he described as the greatest ornament and main support of a representative government. The project was remitted to a committee; and, at length, after much discussion, was adopted by both chambers, with the addition of some repressive clauses, applicable to the case of the defamation of individuals.

On 2d August, both chambers assembled in the hall of the senate, to

witness the registration of a solemn act, by which they acknowledged the Prince Imperial to be heir to the throne; and soon afterwards, the budget * having been settled, the session was formally closed by his Majesty.

Having at length ratified the commercial treaty with Great Britain, the emperor commenced preparations for prosecuting the war against the Argentine republic with great ardour. He directed forced levies both of men and equipages, which were executed with a rigour that excited much discontent. On 24th November, he himself sailed for the seat of war in a ship of the line, accompanied by a frigate and transports, having on board a foreign battalion, two

companies of lancers, a train of artillery, and military stores. On the 29th he landed at the isle of St Catharine; and on 2d December joined his army upon the frontiers of the Rio Grande province, where he issued a proclamation, inviting the inhabitants of the Cisplatine province to choose between the blessings of a limited monarchy and the calamities inseparable from war. It is probable that the emperor intended to conduct the war in person; but having received intelligence of the death of his empress, which took place on 1st December, and was caused by a bilious fever, he returned with speed to his capital.

The receipts of 1826 amounted to 7,578,473,132 reis; the expenditure to 7,427,213,631 reis.

PART II.

LITERARY AND MISCELLANEOUS.

PART II.

LITERARY, SCIENTIFIC, AND MISCELLANEOUS.

CHAPTER I.

NATURAL HISTORY, SCIENCE, AND GEOGRAPHY.

Chart of the Island of Ascension, with Remarks on its Geognosy—Account of a Case of Poisoning, caused by the Honey of the Lecheguana Wasp—On the Preservation of Zoological Specimens from the depredations of Insects—Account of the principal Coal Mines in France, and the Quantity of Coal which they yield—Account of the Bones of various Animals discovered at Brein-gucs—On the Natural History and Economical uses of the Cod, Capelin, Cuttle Fish, and Seal, as they occur on the Banks of Newfoundland, and the Coasts of that island and Labrador—On the Changes which the Laws of Mortality have undergone in Europe, within the last half Century—General Observations on the former and present Geological Condition of the Countries discovered by Captains Parry and Ross—Overland Arctic Expedition—Meteorology—Platina found in Russia—Notice regarding a Phenomenon observed in the Island of Meleda, in the province of Ragusa—Geognosy of Palestine—Rare Scottish Plants—Balls in the Stomachs of Fishes—East Indian Unicorn—Remarks on some Marine Fishes, and their Geographical Distribution—Steam Navigation—Population—Tables for converting Scotch Land Measure into Imperial Land Measure—Water Spouts in the Irish Channel.

Chart of the Island of Ascension, with remarks on its Geognosy. By Captain Robert Campbell, R.N.

THIS island is situated in the Atlantic Ocean, in South Lat. $7^{\circ} 55'$, West

Long. $14^{\circ} 51'$, is about nine miles in length from the SE. to NW., and about five or six miles broad.* During the time of Bonaparte's confinement in St Helena, it was judged prudent to keep a small force there.

* The Latitude was settled by a series of observations of the sun's altitude, taken in an artificial horizon, when his northerly declination admitted of this being done. The Longitude was settled by means of numerous lunar observations, agreeing with a series of observations of the eclipses of Jupiter's moons, some of which were also observed at Greenwich.

For some time I had the command of the party, and employed myself in making a chart of the island, which I now communicate to the public. In the chart, the principal stations which served for its construction, and the more remarkable points, are marked \odot .

The angles of the chain of triangles which connect the stations, were taken with a sextant; and as their sides were therefore not on a horizontal plane, their inclinations were measured, and their horizontal projections found, by reducing the oblique lines in the proportion of radius to the cosines of their inclination.

The positions of the intermediate points were determined by observations made at the principal stations; but it was not thought necessary to apply reduction to the sides of these secondary triangles, on account of their obliquity.

The height of the Green Mountain (one of the stations) was found, by taking its elevation with the sextant and an artificial horizon, above a station on the sea-coast; and the height of this station above the level of the sea was carefully measured. As the other mountains were too low to be seen from the sea-coast in the artificial horizon, their heights were found by taking, with the sextant, their angles of elevation at their several stations on the coast, above objects on a level with the eye, and in vertical planes passing through the eye and their summits. The level was determined by looking through a tube to which a spirit level was fixed.

The whole island has a most forbidding and rugged aspect. Its highest mountain, named Green Mountain Peak, is 2818 feet above the level of the sea. The largest portion of the mountain is 2000 feet above the sea; and at this height there is a space of comparatively level ground, in which the principal garden in the island is

situated. From the top of the Peak down to about this level, or a little lower, the surface, excepting where it is precipitous, is covered with a coat of soil, which is nowhere deep, and having under it masses of pumice and lava. The precipices around this height, are, in many instances, formed of slaggy lava; and, in the lava, are veins filled with opal, containing imbedded fragments of vesicular and slaggy lava. In other parts, there are rocks of a felspar or trachyte porphyry. Among the many ridges shooting from the Green Mountain (M. of the chart), one of the most remarkable is that composed of black and dark-green perfectly formed obsidian, which, in some places, is disposed in balls and globular concretions, like that found in Kamtschatka; and in others, in large globular concretions, like those of basalt and green-stone. Associated with it there are grey varieties of pearl-stone. This vitreous mineral is there associated with various porphyries, apparently trachytic; and, in some places, green pitchstone, with imbedded sphaerulite and common pumice and pumice-conglomerate, occur. Not far from the obsidian ridge, there is a remarkable hill, named by the sailors *The Devil's Riding-School*, marked in the chart P. It is about 700 feet above the level of the sea, and between 400 and 500 feet above the surface of the surrounding base. It has a circular hollow on the top, which probably was formerly much deeper than at present, it being now filled up to within 30 feet of the edge of the crater. This hill, as far as can be made out from the specimens brought home, appears to be composed of trachytic rocks. In some varieties, the basis is like claystone, and contains imbedded portions of slaggy lava; in others, the basis is of felspar, with imbedded crystals of glassy felspar, and fragments of slaggy lava;

and the trachyte porphyry sometimes contains, in its cavities, crystals of Vesuvian. Many of the rocks are in an earthy state, owing to the action of the weather; and occasionally they are observed decaying in globular and concentric lamellar concretions. The upper and middle parts of the hill, marked B in the chart, are composed of vesicular, spumous, and corded lava. Some of the vesicular varieties much resemble the millstone lava of Andernach. The lower part of the hill consists of rocks of a different description, which form, as it were, a foundation on which the vesicular and corded lavas rest. On the SW. side, the rocks are trachyte-porphry, occasionally including fragments of slaggy lava. On the NE. side is a bluish clinkstone-lava, with numerous imbedded felspar crystals.

It thus appears, that the Green Mountain, and the hill P, are composed of trachyte, and its congenerous rocks; while B consists of vesicular and slaggy lava, resting upon trachyte. All those parts of the island coloured in the chart *reddish-brown*, are of the same description. The rugged parts of the island, all of which are coloured *bluish-black* in the chart, are composed of a greyish-black lava, slightly vesicular, and containing few crystals of glassy felspar. This lava presents a frightfully rugged surface, which forms irregular eminences, varying in height from 20 to 50, and even 100 feet.

In the bays, and on such parts of the coast as are not precipitous, the beach is formed of a sand of comminuted shells, with fragments of echini and of corals. In some places near to the sea, the fragments of shells are conglutinated together by a calcareous cement, and form a pretty solid mass. The solidity of the mass diminishes as the distance from the sea increases. A turtle's nest, with eggs, was obser-

ved imbedded in this conglomerate. The rocks which rise through these calcareous beaches, and which are so near to the sea as to be washed by its spray, are incrustated with a calc-sinter and calc-tuff, formed by the action of the weather on the calcareous matter of the shells and corals.

Lastly, it may be mentioned, that runs of a sand, composed of the materials of the rocks, occur in different parts of the island, and that these are pointed out in the chart by the *pale yellow* colour.

Baron Von Buch divides volcanic islands into three classes, which he characterises in the following manner :

1. *Basaltic Islands.* Composed of strata of basaltic rocks, in which there is generally a crater of elevation (Erhebungscrater.)

2. *Volcanocs.* Isolated; very elevated peaks, and domes of trachyte, and generally with a great crater on the summit.

3. *Erupted Islands.* These have been formed by single eruptions, and scarcely ever occur without basaltic islands.

The Island of Ascension is, by Von Buch, referred to the third division; but it now appears, from the facts stated above, that this island belongs not to the third alone, but rather conjoins the characters of the second and third classes.

Account of a Case of Poisoning, caused by the Honey of the Lecheguana Wasp. By M. M. Auguste de St Hilaire.

Aristotle, Pliny, and Dioscorides, inform us, that, at a certain time of the year, the honey of the countries in the neighbourhood of Mount Caucasus, rendered those who have eaten of it insensible. Xenophon and Diodorus Siculus relate, that, at the siege of Trebisond, the soldiers of the army of

the Ten Thousand ate of the honey which they found in the fields, and that afterwards they experienced a delirium of several days, some of them resembling drunken people, and others madmen, or persons in the agonies of death. Some modern writers have confirmed these statements, and have discovered that it is the flowers of *Azalea pontica*, and perhaps also those of *Rhododendrum ponticum*, that communicate deleterious properties to the honey of Mengrelia. On the authority of the celebrated Tournefort, Lambert says, that the honey collected upon a certain tree of Colchia occasions vomitings. Tournefort himself asserts, that a constant tradition has established, among the inhabitants of the coasts of the Black Sea, a belief that the honey extracted by the bees from the flowers of *Azalea pontica* is dangerous. Lastly, a later traveller, Guldenstaedt, the companion of Pallas, has himself seen the honey collected upon the *Azalea*; he found it of a dark-brown colour, and having a bitter taste; and in several places of his works, he says that this honey causes giddiness, and produces insensibility.

Asia Minor is not the only country in which honey of a dangerous quality has been found. Roulox Barro, in his *Voyage to Brazil*, expresses himself on the subject as follows: "The most inebriated of the Tapuies searched for wild honey and fruits, of which they make a beverage, which is called *grappe*, and of which, whoever drank, immediately vomited." In the island of Maragnon, the bee *Mumbuca* sometimes, according to Piso, rests upon the flower of the tree *Tapuraiba*, and then its honey, which is ordinarily delicious, becomes entirely bitter. Azara is still more precise; for he expresses himself as follows in his *Voyage to Paraguay*: "the honey of a bee named *Cabatatu*, produces violent headach, and causes a degree of inebri-

ation at least as great as that brought on by spirits. That of another species occasions convulsions, and the most violent pains, which terminate at the end of thirty hours, without producing any troublesome consequence. The country people are well acquainted with these two species, and abstain from their honey, although its taste is as good as that of the others, and its colour is the same."

The honey of Pennsylvania, of South Carolina, of Georgia, and of the two Floridas, when it has been gathered upon *Kalina angustifolia*, *latifolia*, and *hirsuta*, and upon *Andromeda Mariana*, often occasions, according to Smith Barton, vertigoes, to which succeeds a delirium, varying in character according to the individuals. "The persons poisoned," adds the same author, "experience pain in the stomach, convulsions, vomitings, and sometimes these accidents are followed by death."

It is not alone in Asia and America that these examples have occurred of poisoning, caused by certain sorts of honey. Seringe relates, that two Swiss herds, who had eaten honey gathered from *Aconitum Napellus* and *lycactonium*, experienced violent convulsions, and were seized with a horrible delirium; and that one of them, who was not able to vomit, died, emitting foam by the mouth, tinged with blood.

So many united authorities were not, doubtless, unknown to those who, even in our own times, have treated as fabulous the recitals of the historian of the Ten Thousand; but if these recitals needed a fresh confirmation, it would be found in the fact which I am about to relate, and which occurred to myself. To make myself better understood, I shall first give an idea of the place in which the event took place, from the fatal effects of which I narrowly escaped.

After having traversed the smiling plains of the Rio de la Plata, I had

coasted the less inhabited banks of the Uruguay, and had come to the Camp of Belem, which occupied the site of the small town of the same name, destroyed by Artigas. Here I was informed that I should be obliged to cross a desert, where I should neither find inhabitants, nor traces of a path ; but it was added, that, in case of need, I might have recourse to two detachments of Portuguese soldiers, posted upon the banks of the river ; and I was willingly furnished with a guide to accompany me as far as the first post, placed toward the mouth of the Guaray. On the side of this river I exchanged my guide for another, who was to conduct me to the brook of St Anne, where I was told the second detachment was. When we arrived at this brook, we searched two days for the posts of which we had been informed ; but, finding that our efforts had proved unsuccessful, I sent back to the river of Guaray the guide who had conducted me to the brook of St Anne, and who had never been farther. I gave him one of the soldiers who had escorted me, to accompany him, and charged the soldier to bring me another guide. I remained waiting until they should arrive upon the banks of the brook, in a place which is now tenanted only by a multitude of Jaguars, and by immense herds of wild animals, deer and ostriches, opposite the right bank of the Uruguay, which was constantly traversed by bands of insurgent Spaniards at war with the Portuguese.

I had already been four days in this desert place, baffled by the rains which fell in torrents ; discommoded by swarms of troublesome insects, and having no other shelter than my cart, when at last the weather cleared up, so as to allow me to undertake a long botanical excursion. I took two of my people with me, and having armed ourselves so as to be able to keep off

the Jaguars, should they attack us, we traversed the surrounding fields, and the banks of the Uruguay. At the end of some hours, hunger brought us back to the banks of the brook, and we assuaged it with our ordinary fare, manihot flour and cow's flesh, roasted and boiled.

During a short walk which we had made the day before, we had observed a wasp's nest suspended about a foot from the ground, from one of the branches of a small shrub. It was nearly oval, of the size of one's head, of a grey colour, and of a chartaceous substance, like those of our European wasps.

After dinner, the two men who had accompanied me upon my excursion, went to destroy the nest, and took away the honey. We all three tasted it. The person who ate most of it was myself, and the quantity which I took could not have exceeded two spoonfuls. I found it of an agreeable sweetness, and absolutely free of that pharmaceutic taste which the honey of our own bees so frequently has.

However, after eating it, I experienced a pain in the stomach, more disagreeable than acute. I lay down under my cart and slept. During my sleep, the objects dearest to me presented themselves to my imagination, and I awoke deeply penetrated with tender feelings. I rose up, but experienced such a degree of weakness as to be utterly unable to walk fifty paces. I therefore returned to my cart, and threw myself down upon the grass, when I immediately felt my face bathed in tears, which I attributed to a melancholy feeling produced by the dream which I had just had. Blushing at my weakness, I tried to laugh, but this laugh prolonged itself and became convulsive. However, I had still the power to issue some orders, and, in the meantime, my hunter arrived, being one of the Brazilians who had partaken

with me of the honey, the baneful effects of which I now began to feel.

This man, who was the offspring of a Mulatto and an Indian woman, combined, with a rare degree of intelligence, the most whimsical character, and all the levity which is peculiar to the Mulatto. Frequently, after having experienced long accessions of the most lively and agreeable good humour, he was, without any apparent reason, seized with a gloomy melancholy, which lasted for some weeks, and, on such occasions, he found causes of irritation in the most innocent words, and even in the most delicate attentions. Jozè Mariano (for this was his name) came up to me, and told me, with an air of gaiety, and yet with somewhat of an odd expression, that half an hour ago he wandered in the country without knowing where he went. He sat down under the cart, and engaged me to take my place beside him. I had much difficulty in dragging myself so far, and, as I felt an excessive degree of weakness, I reclined my head upon his shoulder.

It was then that I began to experience the most cruel agonies. A thick cloud darkened my eyes, I distinguished nothing more than the figures of my companions, and the azure of the sky, traversed by some light vapours. I did not experience any great degree of pain, but I fell into the lowest state of debility. The concentrated vinegar which my people made me breathe, and with which they rubbed my face and temples, revived me with difficulty, and I experienced all the torments of death. However, I have perfectly preserved the recollection of all that I said and apprehended in these painful moments, and the recital which a young Frenchman, who then accompanied me, has since made to me, is in perfect accordance with my own recollections.—A violent combat took place in my mind, but it

lasted only a few moments; I triumphed over my weakness, and became resigned to death. What affected me most, was the loss of my Botocudo Indian, whom I had taken from the woods, and who, I believed, would, after my death, be condemned to slavery. I conjured those who were about me to have pity on his inexperience, and to inform my friends, when they should see them again, that my last prayers had been for this unfortunate young man. I felt an ardent desire to speak in my native language to the Frenchman, who lavished his cares upon me; but I found it impossible to recollect a single word that was not Portuguese, and I could not account for the shame and backwardness which caused this defect of memory in me.

When I began to fall into this singular state, I attempted to take water and vinegar; but having obtained no alleviation from it, I asked for tepid water. I perceived, that, as often as I swallowed it, the mist which covered my eyes was dissipated for a few moments; and I fell to drinking it at long draughts, and almost without interruption. I continually called for an emetic from my young Frenchman; but as he was confounded by all that was passing around him, he was utterly unable to find one. He was searching in the cart; I was sitting beneath, and consequently could not see him; however, it seemed to me as if he were under my eyes, and I reproaching him for his delay. This is the only error into which I fell, during the continuance of this cruel agony.

During these transactions the hunter rose up without my perceiving it; but presently my ears were struck with the frightful cries which he uttered. At this moment I found myself a little better; and none of the motions of this man escaped me. He

tore his clothes with fury, threw them away from him, seized a gun, and fired it off. The gun was wrenched from his hands, and he then ran off into the country, calling the Virgin to his assistance, and crying out loudly, that all was on fire around him; that we were both abandoned, and that the trunks and cart would be suffered to be burnt. A Guarani workman, who formed part of my suite, having in vain attempted to keep him, was seized with terror, and took to flight.

Until now I had not ceased to be carefully attended to by the soldier who partook, along with myself and the hunter, of the honey which had proved so baneful to us; but he had now begun to be very unwell himself. However, as he vomited very readily, and was of a robust habit of body, he very soon recruited his strength, which he did not, however, entirely recover. I have since found, that, while he was attending to me, he presented a frightful appearance, and was extremely pale. "I go," said he, all of a sudden, "to give notice of what is passing to the guard of Guaray." He mounted his horse, and galloped off into the country, but presently the young Frenchman saw him fall off; he got up again; galloped off a second time, fell again; and, some hours after, my people found him sound asleep in the place where he had fallen.

I then found myself, still almost in a dying state, left in company with a Botocudo Indian, who at best could render me no assistance, and with the young Frenchman, whom so many extraordinary events had, in a manner, deprived of reason. All the morning we had perceived insurgent Spaniards upon the opposite bank of the river; some of them even, who had crossed at a neighbouring ford, had shown themselves, at a distance, upon the same side on which we were; and if they did not attack us, it was, with-

out doubt, because they supposed us more numerous than we were. The dangers of my situation presented themselves in a lively manner to my imagination; and, weakened as I then was, I felt my malady still augmented.

I had calculated, that the soldier whom I had sent to Guaray would return this same day with the new guide. I flattered myself that I might receive some assistance from them; and my imagination divided itself entirely between the ardent desire of seeing them arrive, and the dread of the danger which I ran. I thought I perceived the dogs which accompanied my first guide; and the Frenchman assured me that I was not deceived. I thought they were returning with my soldier, and I felt myself reanimated with a glimmering of hope. But these animals quickly disappeared, and left me to all my uneasy feelings. They had been some of the brown dogs which wander in the deserts of the Uruguay; and having but little attachment to a master who fed them ill, they had without doubt been brought back by hunger to a place where they had been seen a few days before to worry a cow, of which we had given them a large portion.

During these occurrences, the hunter José Mariano came and sat down beside me. He was calmer, and had passed a cloth about his waist; but he had not yet recovered the use of his reason. "My master," said he to me, "I have long accompanied you; I was always a faithful servant; I am in the fire, do not refuse me a drop of water." Filled with terror and compassion, I took him by the hand, and, so far as my strength would permit, spoke some words of consolation and friendship to him.

However, the warm water, of which I had drunk a prodigious quantity, ended with producing the effect which I had hoped, and I vomited, along

with a great deal of fluid, a part of the food and honey which I had taken in the morning. I then began to feel myself relieved. A rather painful numbness which I felt in my fingers, was of short duration. I distinguished my cart and the neighbouring pastures and trees: the mist, which had formerly concealed these objects from my eyes, only hid the upper part of them; and if it sometimes fell, it was only for a few moments. However this might be, the state of José Mariano continued to give me great uneasiness; and I was equally tormented by the dread of never being able to recover the entire use of my strength and intellectual faculties. A renewal of the vomiting began to dissipate these fears, and procured me fresh relief. I had now still less difficulty in distinguishing the objects with which I was surrounded. I began to speak Portuguese and my mother tongue at pleasure; my ideas became more connected; and I clearly pointed out to the young Frenchman where he would find an emetic. When he had brought it to me, I divided it into three portions; and I vomited, along with torrents of water, the rest of the food which I had taken in the morning. Until the moment when I had discharged the last portion of the emetic, I had found a sort of pleasure in swallowing warm water at long draughts, but after this it began to produce a repugnance in me, and I ceased to drink it. The mist entirely disappeared; I drank some cups of tea, took a short walk, and soon found myself in my usual state.

Nearly at the same moment his reason suddenly returned to José Mariano, without his having experienced any vomiting. He now assumed new habits, mounted on horseback, and rode off to look for the soldier, whom he presently brought back.

It might be ten in the morning when we all three tasted the honey which

had proved so injurious to us, and the sun was setting before we found ourselves perfectly recovered. The momentary absence of the Frenchman and Botocudo Indian had preserved them from eating of the honey along with us. The soldier had presented it to the Guarani workman; but the latter, knowing its deleterious quality, had refused to take it. The Brazilian laughed at his fear, and did not even think that they should offer me part of it.

Next day I was still somewhat weak. The soldier complained of being deaf of an ear. José Mariano asserted, that he had not yet recovered his strength, and that his whole body seemed to him as if covered with a glutinous matter. However, as our new guide had arrived the evening before, we set off betimes, in order to get away from a place which we could no longer look upon but with a kind of horror. Through the whole day, I found it impossible to think of anything else than the events of the preceding day; and when we halted, I noted them down such as I have related them above.

I had said to one of my soldiers, that I should like to possess some wasps of the species which produced the honey, whose troublesome effects we had experienced. A little before arriving at the place where we put up the day after the accident had befallen us, I was called by the soldier, who showed me a wasp's nest similar to that of the day before. It had the same form, the same dimensions, the same consistence; it was equally suspended from one of the lower branches of a small shrub; and my Guarani labourer, as well as the new guide, another labourer, and several Indians whom the guide had brought with him, recognised this wasp as belonging, like that of the preceding day, to the species known in the country by the name of *Lecheguana*. My soldier took pos-

session of the nest, and brought me some of the flies, as well as fragments of their abode. The combs which I have sent, along with the wasp, to the Royal Cabinet, were similar to those which I had in my hands the day before; and the honey which they contained was of the reddish colour of that of the common bee, and was, like it, very fluid.

One may easily imagine the astonishment and chagrin which I experienced, when the soldier told me, that my Botocudo Indian, who had been a witness of the manner in which we had been affected, and the labourer of the guide, had eaten of the honey, and that their example had influenced my Guarani labourer. I could not help loading these men with all the marks of my indignation and disdain. "This honey will do me no harm," replied the Botocudo to me, "it is so sweet!"—words perfectly characteristic of the Indian, who is always full of the present, and never looks to the future.

Expecting a recurrence of the scenes of yesterday, I prepared emetics. I sent my people to lie down, and went to work in my cart. In a minute, all was in the most profound quiet around me. I awakened the Botocudo; he assured me he was exceedingly well, and the night passed without any accident.

As soon as I had got out of the deserts, in which I then was, and entered the province of the Missions, I asked a great many people about the honey of the *Lecheguana*s. All, whether Portuguese, Guaranis, or Spaniards, agreed in saying, that two species of *Lecheguana* were distinguished in the country; the one which affords a white honey (*Lecheguana de mel blanco*), and the other which produces a reddish honey, (*Lecheguana de mel vermelho*). They added, that the honey of the former species never did harm; that that of the other, the

only kind which I have seen, did not always do harm, but that when it did prove troublesome, it occasioned a sort of drunkenness or delirium, which was removed only by vomiting, and which sometimes went so far as to occasion death.

I was informed that the plant was perfectly well known from which the *Lecheguana* wasp frequently extracts a poisonous honey; but it was not shown to me, and I was unfortunately left to form conjectures regarding it.

On the Preservation of Zoological Specimens from the Depredations of Insects. By Thomas S. Trail, M.D., F.R.S.E., &c.

THE difficulty of preserving zoological specimens from the depredations of insects, is a subject of regret and anxiety to every collector; and various methods have been proposed of accomplishing this desirable object. The compositions into which *arsenic* and *corrosive sublimate of mercury* enter, are well known to be very effectual, when properly applied; but, unless used with caution, they are apt to injure the natural pliancy of the skins, and they can scarcely be effectually employed to protect collections of insects. I have known these substances, even in the hands of the most expert, produce such *tenderness* of the skins impregnated with them, as to form a considerable obstacle to the *setting up* of the specimens. To render them effectual, too, they must be carefully applied to each specimen; by which the labour of collecting and preserving is materially increased.

Of the method proposed by M. Temminck, viz. the introduction of *tallow* into the cases containing zoological specimens, I am yet unable to speak from experience. It has been lately introduced into the Museum of our Royal Institution, where it will have

a fair trial, although I confess that its *modus operandi* does not seem very obvious.

Camphor has been long known as a preservative against the attacks of insects; yet I have known specimens of birds to suffer from moths, though inclosed in boxes in which camphor was present; and to be efficacious, it ought to be used in considerable quantity.

Every substance which I have yet tried, seems to be inferior in efficacy and ease of application to the following,—the method of Mr William Gibson, preparer of objects of Natural History, residing in No. 16, London Road, Liverpool,—which I shall transcribe from his own communication to me.

“I have found,” says he, “that nothing destroys insects so effectually as *rectified oil of turpentine*, and my method of using it is as follows:—I put the turpentine in a bladder, the mouth of which is firmly tied with a waxed string; and nothing more is necessary than to place the bladder thus prepared in the box with the birds, or to tie it to the pedestal on which the birds are perched, in a case. If there be any maggots on the birds, I have invariably found, that they will soon be dislodged from the feathers, fall to the bottom of the case, and die in the course of two days. I have also made the experiment of introducing the common house-fly, the large blue-bottle-fly, and moths, into a case of birds so defended, through a small hole in the bottom of the case. The moment the flies enter the box, they begin to vomit a whitish, glutinous matter, they are much agitated, and the largest of them died in seven minutes. I have, in like manner, repeatedly introduced active American cockroaches, and these strong insects soon became uneasy, often rubbed their sides with their hind feet, and died in about an hour and a half. I next got a bird-skin full of living maggots, and placed it in my defended case; in about

three hours they were seen *coming out* in all directions, and fell to the bottom of the case, where they died. For large cases of birds, a pig's or a sheep's bladder is sufficient; for middle sized cases, a lamb's or a rabbit's bladder will do; and for small ones, we may use a rat's bladder. The turpentine evidently penetrates through the bladder, as it fills the case with its strong smell.”

The powerful anthelmintic effect of oil of turpentine corroborates Mr Gibson's account of its poisonous quality to the larvæ of insects; and its instantaneously killing perfect insects, must be familiar to the entomologist. I may here remark, that I have found the common receipt of dipping the pin, with which the insect is to be transfixed, in aquafortis, is by no means so speedy a method of putting an end to its sufferings, as applying a single drop of turpentine to the corselet. Though disappointed in the use of the pin dipt in acid, I never found the largest insects, *Lihellula*, *Scarabæi*, *Blatta*, or *Scolopendra*, that could, for a moment, resist the application of oil of turpentine. I ought to add, however, that my entomological pursuits have been few; for the difficulty of speedily killing insects, without injuring the specimen, early gave me a distaste to that branch of Natural History.

The difficulty of destroying the minute white *acari*, that infest the hairs of specimens in collections, is well known. On the neck of a large specimen of *Phoca leonina* (Linn.) in our Museum, I lately observed innumerable *acari*. I directed the skin to be carefully and repeatedly washed with a strong solution of corrosive sublimate in spirit, seemingly without much effect. Some of them even crawled among the hairs while still wet with this solution; but on brushing the part infested by these vermin with oil of turpentine they speedily disappeared.

Though similar facts are not un-

known to naturalists, it is singular that this liquid has not been hitherto applied to preserve dried zoological specimens from insects ; and Natural History will hereafter derive much benefit from this simple and effectual process. As far as I can judge, this method promises, from its cheapness, and easy application, to be very useful, not only in collections of Natural History exposed to public view, but will materially abridge the labour, and save the precious time, of the scientific traveller in preserving his collections. It will also, I doubt not, prove an acceptable boon to furriers and other dealers in peltry.

Account of the principal Coal Mines in France, and the quantity of coal which they yield.

ENGLAND and Scotland contain the most extensive coal-works that exist in the world. They are there very numerous, being in the direct ratio both of the enormous consumption of Great Britain, and of the great annual exportation. Several of these immense mines present the union of the greatest moving powers that can be imagined, and of the most simple and most economical means of transport. It is by means of subterranean navigation, by means of canals and sluices lined with iron, and constructed in the very interior of these mines ; by means of inclined planes, artfully managed, in which the friction of the carriages is almost annihilated, by plates of cast-iron on which they roll, and which allow them to be left to their own motion for several miles, that the coals are transported even to the place of embarkation ; and it is by these economical proceedings, which are a thousand times repeated every day, that the fuel in question comes to be delivered in England to the consumers at a trifling expense.

The Newcastle mines alone, which are in reality the most productive works known, employ more than sixty thousand individuals, and annually produce thirty-six millions of quintals.

France contains no coal-works of so gigantic a nature as those which exist in England ; but one would have a false idea of its richness in this respect, were he to judge from the small number of coal-mines that are wrought on a large scale. This apparent smallness depends upon the circumstance that the consumption of coal is very limited, as a deplorable prejudice, and an adherence to ancient custom, have hitherto prevented the use of this combustible in such of our manufactories as consume the greatest quantity of charcoal, the great furnaces.

About forty departments are known in France which contain beds of combustible substances belonging to coal, namely, the Allier, the High and Low Alps, the Ardèche, the Aude, the Aveyron, the Low Rhine, the Mouth of the Rhone, the Calvados, the Cantal, the Corrèze, the Creuze, the two Sèvres, the Dordogne, the Finistère, the Gard, the Upper Rhine, the Upper Loire, the Upper Marne, the Upper Saone, the Hérault, the Isère, the Lower Loire, the Lot, the Maine and Loire, the Maule, the Moselle, the Nicore, the Nord, the Pas de Calais, the Puy-de-Dome, the Eastern Pyrenees, the Rhone, the Tarn, the Var, and the Vauluse.

In reality, several of these deposits are nothing more than merely known, and others of them are only wrought to a small extent. However, there are already reckoned in France 236 mines, from which 9 or 10 millions of quintals are annually taken, having a value of from 10 to 11 millions of francs on the spot, a value which rises to 40 millions, at least with regard to the mass of consumers, as the carriage to the place

of consumption amounts to three times, four times, and even in some cases to ten times, the price of the coal.

These 9 millions of quintals, which are nothing in comparison of the consumption of England, which rises to 75 millions of quintals annually, are furnished by the following mines:

1. Three millions are furnished by the mines of St Etienne, Rive-de-Gier, and the neighbourhood, in which 1400 workmen are immediately occupied, and where there exist 11 steam-engines, 6 hydraulic engines, and 70 machines à molettes ou à chevaux, analogous to our jack-rolls with spur-wheels, and our whim-gins worked by horses. The formation in which these mines exist, consists of sandstone and slate. The excellent coal which they produce is transported to all parts of France, and even to Genes.

2. Three millions by the works in the Department du Nord, which employ 4500 miners, and in which there are erected 7 horse machines, 9 steam-engines for drawing off the water, and 16 rotation ones, in constant employment for the extraction of the coal.

This country contains the mines of Anzin and Raiane, which are the most considerable in France, and which produce from 200 to 400 metres. These mines are situated in the formation of coal—sandstones, and slates; but they are covered by a great thickness of limestone deposit, the overlying and unconformable strata of which are horizontal.

3. Lastly, The remaining third of the mass of coal which is annually extracted in France, comes especially from the mines of Litry, in the Department du Calvados, which employ more than 400 workmen, and produce upwards of 200,000 quintals of coal; of Carmeaux, in the Department du Tarn, which produce more than 100,000 quintals, and employ upwards of 300 workmen; of Creuzot and others,

in the Department of the Saone and the Loire, producing more than 400,000 quintals of coal; of Champagny and Ronchamps, in the Department of the Haute Saone, the products of which have been considerably increased of late. These mines may be mentioned as examples of works well conducted, and of great importance for the prosperity of the countries in which they are situate.

Then comes the coal deposit of the Lower Loire, which furnishes 6 mines, two of which are situate in the department of that name, and three in the Department of the Maine and the Loire. The whole quantity produced by them yearly is 250,000 quintals of coal, and they employ upwards of 600 workmen.

Then the Departments of the Nièvre and Allier, which have also 5 coal-works. Here the want of channels of conveyance (especially in the Department of the Allier) has hitherto prevented the works from being carried on to a greater extent. This effect is still more sensible, with reference to the coal deposits situate in the midst of the mountains of the centre and south of France. Those of the neighbourhood of Aubin, in the Department of the Aveyron, for example, might, from their extreme richness, furnish the whole of France with fuel, and yet the quantity annually extracted from them is not so much as 10,000 quintals of coal; and even this small quantity is taken from thirty different mills, by superficial works conducted without any rule, and which are continually deteriorating the precious subterranean domain which the soil contains. The want of market also obliges a considerable quantity of small coal to be left at the bottom of the mines, in the Departments of the Aveyron, the Gard, the Loire, and others; and this quantity, which is thus lost for consumption, may be estimated at a twentieth part

at least of the total product of the coal-mines of France.—(*See Bonnard, Ingenieur en chef des Mines.*)

Lastly, The Department of the Mouths of the Rhone is the only one that remains to be noticed with reference to the subject in question. Eighteen mines in this Department employ 200 workmen, and produce annually 180,000 quintals of coal.

The selling price of coal varies exceedingly, according to the quality, the facility of working, and especially the abundance of the products, and the extent of the conveyance. Thus, in the Department of the Aveyron, the mean price is only from 35 to 40 centimes the quintal; in the Department of the Loire, the price varies from 30 centimes to 1 franc; in the Department of the Nord, the mean price is 1 franc 27 centimes; in the Department of the Haute Saone, the price rises from 80 centimes to 2 francs 50 centimes the quintal. The reason of so consider-

able an augmentation is not difficult to imagine; the conveyances are long, and there is no general market.

In general, the small fat coal, and the meagre coal in large pieces, have nearly the same value, and sell at 25 or 30 per cent less than the fat coal in large pieces.

According to correct accounts, it is estimated that, at present, 10 millions of quintals of coal may be annually extracted in France, which are sold on the spot for 12 millions of francs; which make the average value of the quintal 1 franc 20 centimes, and proves that coal is wrought in an economical manner in France. These works employ immediately 10,000 miners, and a much greater number of individuals for the carriage of the fuel.—(*Annales des Mines, MM. D'Hellancourt and Cordier.*)

The price of coal in France in some of the principal places of consumption is as follows:

At Bordeaux, large coal of Rive-de-Gr.	5 francs	20 centimes the quintal
Carmaux coal, .	4	20
Aubin coal, .	3	20
At Paris, St Etienne and Anzin, .	4	00 to 4 70
At Nantes, St Etienne, .	4	30
At Brest, St Etienne, .	5	30
At Cherbourg, Litry, .	4	50
At Rouen, St Etienne, .	5	30

Belgium is rich in coal-mines; those of the neighbourhood of Mons, Charleroi, Liege, are very important; they amount to 350, which employ 20,000 workmen, and produce annually about 12,000,000 quintals of excellent coal.

Germany, taken altogether, is not rich in coal-mines; the collieries of the country of Sauebrück, Roer, the country of La Marck, those of the country of Tecklenburg, and the hundred mines of Silesia, scattered in the neighbourhood of Schweidnitz, may, however, be regarded as very important. Lastly, Saxony, Bohemia, Austria, Tyrol, Bavaria, Hanover, the Hartz, and Hun-

gary, have also coal-mines, but of very inferior importance.

In Sweden there are no coal-mines, excepting in the province of Scania; they are beginning to be wrought with great vigour. Norway appears entirely destitute of coal, as well as Russia. It is, however, probable, that the great quantity of wood which these countries contain, has hitherto prevented their inhabitants from seeking to become acquainted with the combustible substances which the under-ground strata may contain; and yet some coal-deposits are mentioned as wrought in Siberia.

In Italy, the Appenines contain some trifling coal-mines. In Spain, coal deposits are known in Andalusia, Estremadura, Catalonia, Arragon, Castile, and the Asturias, but the beds are thin, and the workings are all of little importance. In Portugal, there is only one coal-mine mentioned, which is wrought at Cape de Buarços, in the province of Beira. Beds were discovered some years ago near Via-longa, to the north-east of Oporto.

We have few accounts regarding the coal-mines of the other parts of the globe. We know, however, that much coal is wrought in China and Japan; that it exists in the island of Madagascar; that Africa is not destitute of it; that coal has been discovered in New Holland; and lastly, that it is found in America also. There is little known in the Cordilleras; a deposit is mentioned at Santa Fè de Bogota, which is situated 4400 metres above the level of the sea. Beds of coal are noticed as occurring at Lucayes, in St Domingo, in the Isle of Cape Breton, in Canada, in Louisiana, and especially in the United States. In this latter country, the whole western part of Pennsylvania and Virginia contains extremely abundant deposits of coal, but which have not hitherto been wrought. Coal is also mentioned as being found on the coast of Greenland. — (*Annales des Mines.*)

Account of the Bones of several Animals discovered at Breingues, in the Department Du Lot. By M. Delpon.

This discovery has been mentioned by M. Cuvier in the Analysis of the labours of the Royal Academy of Science during the year 1818. Some of the bones in question have been deposited in the Museum at the Jardin du Roi, and M. Cuvier has taken notice of them in his great work; but we have judged it useful to present an extract of the

inedited notice of M. Delpon, because it exhibits several very curious facts, especially the very singular order in which these bones have been found.

In various points of the calcareous portion of Quercy, there are seen remains of a sort of entrenchment, formed of blocks of stone, of more or less considerable dimensions, and which describe straight lines or circular inclosures. The most remarkable of these inclosures occupy the summit of two mountains of the Commune de Breingues, in the Circle (*arrondissement*) of Figeac, of which the one is situate on the right bank of the Selé, and the other on the left. There are observed in the rocks of the right bank several cavities or grottoes, before which some vestiges of buildings are seen,—a circumstance which presents itself in the greater number of the grottoes with which the rocks along the Lot, the Selé, &c. are perforated. Popular traditions have occasioned several diggings to be made in these grottoes, with the view of discovering treasures supposed to be concealed in them. In 1816, the whole population of Breingues was occupied with those of which the present article is intended to furnish some account. In one, among others, of which the opening was almost concealed by the rocks, the entrance was found choked up with earth. The labourers hastened to clear it out, and on coming to the depth of three feet, they found the bones of a human body, beside which was an iron instrument resembling a fork with two prongs. This circumstance tended to redouble their exertions, and the digging was continued in a perpendicular direction, with the aid of a capstan, to the depth of eighteen metres; but the natural cavity, which had uniformly, until now, shown a straight direction, here presented three cavities, equally filled up with earth and stones. The workmen first followed that which brought them

nearest the first grotto, and were presently arrested by three large stones, placed above one another by the hand of man. After having removed them, they remarked that each of them was of a reddish and earthy colour upon one of its faces, like all those which are at the present day raised from the surface of the ground, and that the opposite face was covered with mosses and hyssi ;—a circumstance which evidently showed that these stones had for a long time remained in the open air before they had been removed thus far under ground. It was not doubted that they closed the cavity in which the treasure must have been deposited ; but in place of this treasure, they found nothing but a prodigious quantity of bones, some of them mingled with earth or stones, and *others very carefully placed in narrow fissures of the rock*. Several heads of a species of deer, at the present day unknown, and many other bones, were discovered, without any mixture of earth, in a small cavity, covered over with a rude slab, placed with great care. It ought to be remarked also, that here and there the mass of stones and common soil was interrupted by small quantities of an alluvial earth, composed of clay and sand, similar to that which the river Selé deposits at the present day.

It was not only found that no current of water could have brought it there, but it could not be doubted that those small heaps of alluvial earth had been formed by men, since they were pressed, regularly arranged, and entirely surrounded with small calcareous stones, of a very white colour, and which must have been soiled by the water, had it deposited these alluvial matters so regularly. Besides, the elevation of this grotto being more than 300 metres above the river, precluded the idea that the waters of the Selé could have reached it.

Hoping that they would be more
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fortunate in the other branches of the gallery, they gave up working in this ; but the others presented nothing but bones placed in the same manner. So great a quantity was taken out, that the whole together would have formed a mass of more than twenty cubic metres. The greater number of such as possessed any extraordinary appearance, were broken by the persons who first got hold of them. Some of the bones were incrustated, and others inclosed in a calcareous breccia, with a crystalline paste. The greater number were so well preserved, that they looked as if the flesh had been recently detached from them ; but as soon as they were exposed to the external air, they became scaly and whitish.

Among these bones there were recognised the skull of a rhinoceros, three teeth of the same animal, the head of a species of deer now unknown upon the globe, and of which the horns have some resemblance to those of a young reindeer (see the *Recherches sur les Ossements Fossiles*, t. iv. p. 89) ; the fragments of the horn of a large species of deer equally unknown, but allied to the common stag ; and lastly, the humerus of a large ox, and a horse's femur.

M. Delpon concludes his notice with some judicious reflections. He infers, from the existence of these bones of animals foreign to our climate, and which have formerly lived on our soil, that the temperature has diminished since the time when it was sufficiently high to allow these animals to live. In a historical point of view, he inquires for what reason their bones had been deposited with so much care in the cavities where they have been found. He thinks that these grottoes were used by the Druids for performing their ceremonies in them, and supposes the bones in question to be the remains of the sacrifices which they had offered to their gods. We are of opinion, that,

whatever uses these caverns may have been applied to, according to the times, the bones which are found in them are of a date much anterior to the Druids, and even to the establishment of the human species in these countries; and that their regular arrangement is a result either of the superstition of the first inhabitants of the country who discovered them, or of the amusement of herdsmen, or some other cause of this description.—*Bullet. Univers. Nov.*

On the Natural History and Economical Uses of the Cod, Capelin, Cuttle-Fish, and Seal, as they occur on the Banks of Newfoundland, and the Coast of that Island and Labrador. Communicated in a Letter to Professor Jameson, by W. E. Cormack, Esq.

Of the fishes of the British North American Seas, the most abundant is, at the same time, the most important to man. The cod (*Gadus Morhua*) here holds dominion over all the habitable parts of the ocean,—from the outer edge of the great banks of Newfoundland, which are more than 300 miles from land, and more than 100 fathoms deep, to the verges of every creek and cove of the bounding coasts: it even ascends into the fresh-water.

To support such a mass of living beings, the ocean sends her periodical masses of other living beings; and these, in the economy of nature, are next in importance, and, of necessity, in abundance in these seas. Nature furnishes two successive tribes of animals as food for one tribe; and for the three together, this busiest part of the ocean seems to exist.

The Cod.—The cod is accompanied at one season by shoals of myriads of the capelin (*Salmo arcticus*), and at another by equal hosts of that molluscous animal the cuttle-fish (*Sepia Lo-*

ligo), called in Newfoundland the Squid. The three animals are migratory; and man, who stations himself on the shores for their combined destruction, conducts his movements according to their migrations. By art, he captures annually more than two hundred millions of the cod with the capelin, and one hundred millions with the cuttle-fish. On the coast of Labrador, and in the north part of Newfoundland, the cod is so abundant, that it is hauled on shore with lines in vast quantities. Thus, by these three means, and the use of herrings and shell-fish for bait, along the southern shores of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, there is caught in the British North American Seas, upwards of four hundred millions of cod annually.

There appear to be four varieties or kinds of the cod in these seas; but their history has not been sufficiently attended to, to determine their relations to each other as species or varieties. The first is the *bank-cod*, found on the great bank, many miles from land; the second is the *shore-cod*, caught in the bays around the shores, and in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence; the third is the *red-cod* (*Gadus calarias*), resembling the rock-cod or red-ware codling of Scotland, caught near the shores; the fourth and most remarkable, is what may be called the *Sealheaded-cod*, from its head resembling that of a seal or dog. The haddock (*Gadus Aeglefinus*), of a large size, is also met with among the proper cod. All the kinds approach towards one size, and are caught and dried promiscuously by the fishermen. The bank-cod differs from the other varieties in his place of resort, which is almost always on the banks, at a distance from land; he is also larger and stronger, with larger scales and spots; his body is of a lighter colour throughout, with the spots more generally diffused, and more distinctly

marked; his flesh, too, is firmer. The shore-cod resembles most the cod in a healthy state on the coasts of Britain, and is that of which the greatest quantity is caught, owing to its being most conveniently taken: the back is of a dusky brown colour; the belly, silvery or yellowish, and the spots in general not remarkably distinct. The red-cod is, probably, larger than our rock-cod, and is not numerous. The seal-headed cod is of the same colour and size as the shore-cod, and its head is, in like manner, covered with skin; and it is comparatively rare. The young cod, tom-cod, or podley, swarms in summer in all the harbours and shallow waters.

There are some other differences in the cod, which may partly arise from difference of latitude and of coasts where they are found. Thus, the farther north, the less oil is obtained from them, their livers being smaller; and the bank-cod yields the least oil of any.

The cod is sometimes caught six feet in length; but there are accounts of its having been taken larger. All the kinds of cod obey the same general laws of migration. They shift according to the changes of temperature in their element, arising from the seasons, and with the supplies of food which invariably accompany these changes. The bank-cod seems to be the most stationary.

As we advance northward from the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, the migrations of the cod assume a more decided character, and it strikes in in greater abundance. This holds as far north as fishing-posts have yet been established on the coast of Labrador. The same applies to the migrations and abundance of the other fishes inhabiting these seas, more especially of those connected with the cod, and they arise together from the same general causes. In the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, Lat.

45° 48', particularly along the shores of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Canada, and the adjacent islands, where shell-fish are more abundant than farther to the north, and where, perhaps, in consequence, more other fishes remain during the winter, the herring arrives in spring, about the same time that it arrives on the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador, in April and May, when the cod, in consequence, becomes probably equally abundant at all places; but afterwards, worlds of food arrive on the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador; first, the capelin, over the shores of both these countries, and then, again, the cuttle-fish, around the shores of Newfoundland; they never failing to bring in with them their hosts of cod, and to retain them at these shores during the summer. Neither the capelin, nor any equivalent, ever appears at the countries farther south, although the cuttle-fish visits, and sometimes in considerable quantities, the east coast of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton: Hence the pre-eminence of Newfoundland and Labrador as a fishing station, over every other part of the northern hemisphere.

At Labrador, and in the north part of Newfoundland, where the length of the summer is not more than six weeks or two months, the hook and line are often laid aside for the seine; for it is necessary that enough of cod should be taken within the first two or three weeks, otherwise the remainder of the warm weather would not be sufficient to dry it. Hence the cod-fishery, according to the present mode of curing, which is, with the exception of a very trifling proportion, by drying the fish in the sun, cannot be carried on farther north than a certain latitude.

The fishery of Newfoundland commences in June, as soon as the capelin appears on the coast, and ends about

the beginning of September, when the cuttle-fish begins to move off from the shores. The capelin is the bait used during the first month or six weeks, and after that the cuttle-fish.

When bait is scarce, considerable numbers of cod are caught by *jigging*; the *jiggers* being an artificial bait, with hooks affixed.

The process of curing the cod requires about a month in favourable weather.

Of the four hundred millions and upwards of cod that are taken annually out of the British North American Seas, about one hundred millions, or upwards of sixty thousand tons, are exported in a dried state by the British, to the warm countries of Europe and America: Of the remainder, a part equal to double that of the British is taken away by the Americans,—a part by the French,—and a part is consumed in the countries themselves.

It is from the livers of the cod-fish, that the cod oil of commerce is made. These are exposed in casks, and sometimes in vats, to the sun, and the heat in all these countries is sufficient to render them into oil. There is a falling off some years, in the average quantity of oil obtained from the cod throughout the British fisheries; but as the French have the exclusive privilege of fishing at those parts of the island where the different kinds of fish abound most, it is probable that the quantity of oil in proportion to the quantity of fish caught, including all the fisheries, in any one year, may not vary much.

As the sun withdraws from the north, the temperature of the surface-water decreases; its vivifying principle vanishes, and it is no longer inviting to the free inhabitants of the deep. The cuttle-fish begins to retire, and with it man ends his warfare with the cod. All feel the warning, and

begin to retire to the strongholds in their respective elements, leaving the field of their industry and summer rejoicing, where air, earth, and water, had met in harmony together, soon to become the conflicting scene of an arctic winter.

Of the Capelin.—The value of this delicate and interesting little fish may be estimated, when it is known to constitute the bait with which more than half the cod caught in these seas are taken. The capelin arrives on the coasts of these countries to spawn about the end of June, and departs about the end of July and beginning of August. It arrives at Labrador about a month later, and remains from two to four months. Its numbers are often truly wonderful. Immediately on its arrival, it pushes its dense shoals into the small bays and creeks, as if to shun the jaws of the millions of its devouring enemies, the cod, and many other fishes, which had followed it from the deep, and which remain arrayed at a little distance, impatient for its destruction. These massive clouds of capelin are sometimes more than fifty miles long, and many miles broad. Their spawn is sometimes thrown up along the beaches, forming masses of considerable thickness, most of which is carried back into the sea by a succeeding tide or two.

The capelin is six or seven inches in length; although the males sometimes occur nearly twice the ordinary size. It is caught for bait, in nets constructed of different forms for the purpose. It possesses some peculiar quality, which unfits it to be cured for domestic use like the herring, and is, therefore, merely dried in the sun. Whether the migration of the capelin is to and from the north sea, or limited to the adjacent deep waters, does not appear to be yet well ascertained, notwithstanding that its appearance

and disappearance at all parts of these coasts are watched, as important events, by every fisherman. On the great scale, it is as regular and certain in its appearance and disappearance, as the herring is on the coasts of Europe. It generally appears some days earlier at the south-east parts of Newfoundland, than at the neighbouring parts of the island farther to the north; and from its leading in the bank-cod to these places (as in 1825), it would seem to have come in from the Great Bank. There is little doubt that it is on the banks at certain seasons, as is shown, not merely by the circumstance of its appearing to have led in the cod from thence towards the shores, but by the fact, that, very early in spring, and some weeks before it appears everywhere at the shores, the cod on the banks take it very readily as a bait salted, when, at the same time, the cod at the shore will not take it in that state. It is well known, that the cod will take readily as a bait, on the great scale, that only which is its common food at the time; and, in the present case, as soon as the capelin arrives at the shores, the bank-cod, which we infer to have followed it from the banks, not only continue to take it salted, but the shore-cod, which refused it before, now take it fresh and salted promiscuously.

The Cuttle-Fish.—About the beginning of August, the throngs of capelin which had enlivened the shores, give way to throngs of the cuttle-fish. This animal seems to succeed the other, as if to supply immediately provision to the cod. It is of equal importance in Newfoundland as the capelin, as it is the bait with which the other half of the cod here is caught.

The cuttle-fish does not appear at Labrador in quantities the same as at Newfoundland;—from which it might

be inferred that it migrates only to and from the adjacent deep waters.

The common size of this animal is from 6 to 16 inches in length; but it has been met with of colossal size. During violent gales of wind, hundreds of tons of them are often thrown up together in beds on the flat beaches, the decay of which spreads an intolerable effluvia around. It begins to retire from the coast in September. It is made no use of except for bait; and as it maintains itself in deeper water than the capelin, instead of nets being used to take it, it is jigged; a jigger being a number of hooks radiating from a fixed centre, made for the purpose. The cod is in best condition after having fed on it.

When shoals of the cuttle-fish and of the capelin come in contact, the latter always retreat, and from the wounds they carry with them, are sufferers in an attack: These animals dart backwards and forwards with a quickness which the capelin cannot escape.

The cuttle-fish is supposed to impart the crimson colour which the sea exhibits in various parts here, during the latter part of summer. The water of the harbour of St John's, two miles in extent, sometimes exhibits the phenomenon.

It may be unnecessary to say, that the migrations of the cod, of the capelin, and of the cuttle-fish, are only once a year.

Of the Seals.—Newfoundland, owing to its projecting into the Atlantic eastward from Labrador, intercepts many of the immense fields and islands of ice, which, in the spring, move south from the Arctic Sea. These fields of ice, in their original formation, present, at their edges, a sufficient barrier against the inroads of the ocean; and they are so extensive, that their interior parts, with the openings or

lakes interspersed, notwithstanding the rage of elements around, remain serene and unbroken : Here are the chosen transitory abodes of millions of seals,—here these animals enjoy months of peace and security, to bring forth and nurture their young. Such fields collect on the coasts of Newfoundland, and, as it were, offer to the inhabitants the treasures they bring : The island is periodically surrounded by them for many leagues in all directions,—the inhabitants within the dazzling bulwark being as impotent towards the rest of the world, as the rest of the world is towards them.

The all-efficient sun, gradually returning, liberates the fields of ice from the shores to which they had for a time become attached, and enables man again to expose himself with impunity in his own element.

In the month of March, upwards of 300 vessels, fitted out for the seal-fishery, are extricated from the icy harbours on the east coast of Newfoundland ;—the fields are now all in motion, and the vessels plunge directly into the edges of such as appear to have seals on them ;—the crews, armed with heavy firelocks and bludgeons, there land, and, in the course of a few weeks, destroy nearly 300,000 of these animals for their fat and skins. The skins, with the fat which surrounds the body, are taken off together, and the scalped carcasses left on the ice. When the vessels are loaded with these scalps, or otherwise, when the ice is scattered and dissolved by the advancing spring, which it always is, except the islands, before the middle of May, they return to their respective ports ; the fat is then separated from the skins, and exposed in vats to the heat of the sun, where, in from three to five weeks, it is rendered into the seal-oil of commerce. The field-ice extends, with interruptions, more than 200 miles off the land, but the vessels

in general have not to go so far to look for the seals : The fields are even met with at sea continuous in a northerly and southerly direction for that extent, at that distance from land.

As these fields of ice are not formed at Newfoundland, and only partially formed at Labrador, the herds of seals which are found on them, when they appear at these places, must have come from the sea farther north, where the main body of the ice is formed, viz. from the Greenland Sea, and that in the vicinity of Davis' Straits. The Greenland winter, it would appear, is too severe for these animals, and when it sets in, they accompany the field-ice, which winds and currents carry southward, and remain on it until it is scattered and dissolved in the ensuing spring, in about Lat. 43° N., or about 200 miles south of Newfoundland. Old and young of these animals being then deserted in the ocean by their birth-place, nature points out to them the course to their favourite icy haunts, and thither their herds hurry over the deep to pass an arctic summer. Winter returns, and with it commences again their annual migration from latitude to latitude.

There are five different kinds of seals found on the field-ice at Newfoundland, all known in the Greenland seas. The three best known of which are, 1st, The Harp (*Phoca groenlandica*), the one-year old of which is called the Bedlimmer ; 2d, The Hood, or Hooded Seal (*Phoca leonina*) ; and, 3d, The Squareflipper. The other two kinds are the Blue Seal, so called from its colour, which is as large as the Hooded Seal ; and the Jar Seal, so named from its form resembling that of a jar, thick at the shoulders, and tapering off suddenly towards the tail ; head small, body 4 or 5 feet long, the fur spotted, and it keeps more in the water than the other ice-seals. These all differ from the shore or harbour-seal.

(*Phoca vitulina*) of these coasts. The ice-seals are alike migratory, and promiscuously gregarious; they differ much in size, and the fish of them all is very unpalatable, unless to an acquired taste, more particularly that of the old ones, differing in this respect from the flesh of the shore seal, some parts of which are very good. It remains to be proved, that some of the alleged differences in the ice-seals do not arise from age. Although the ice-seals, which are sometimes met with in herds of many leagues in extent on the ice, seem to have no ordinary means of subsistence, yet the hand of unerring Providence maintains both old and young excessively fat. The seal-hunters often find fresh capelin and other animal substances in their stomachs.

Notwithstanding the apparently immense annual destruction by man among the cod in these seas for more than two centuries, it does not appear that their numbers are at all diminished, or that their migrations are in any way affected: Nor is it likely that they ever will be, if we may judge from the migratory fishes of Europe that have been persecuted for many more centuries, between the North Cape and the South of England.

It is not so, however, with those animals which man can pursue in his own element; thus, the walrus and the penguin, once abundant, may be said now to have entirely disappeared from the Gulf of St Lawrence.

As the persecution of the seals in the field-ice increases, which it has every year since it commenced, it will be interesting to observe, at some future day not far distant, the effect on their numbers. It is not much more than 30 years since any vessels ventured out among the ice at sea, purposely equipped and manned for their destruction.

The cod, the capelin, and the cuttlefish, in their natural connexion, and the seal, or rather the cod and the seal, constitute the political value of New-

foundland and Labrador, and render these otherwise desolate and inhospitable regions the scene of rivalry of British, French, and American national enterprise and industry. The day is not far distant when vessels will be fitted out direct from Britain for the seal-fishery at Newfoundland.

On the Changes which the Laws of Mortality have undergone in Europe within the last Half Century, or from 1775 to 1825. By M. Benoiston de Chateauneuf.

1. THE physical circumstances amid which man is placed, the passions which animate him, and the political revolutions by which he is agitated, influence his organization, alter and modify it. The inhabitant of the north, free and happy, is not born, does not propagate, and dies not, like the suffering, unhappy, and enslaved inhabitant of the south; and the calculations, whose object is to determine the chances of his life, no longer afford the same results, when it is spent in affluence and independence, as they do when it is passed in poverty and servitude.

2. These numerical results, therefore, whenever they can be obtained, become the truest expression of the degree of well-being, which he owes to his institutions. They furnish, says a celebrated English writer, Mr Malthus, more instruction regarding the internal economy of a people, than the most accurate observations of the traveller.

3. In the last century, several philosophers occupied themselves in investigating the laws of mortality, and the probabilities of the duration of life, at all the periods by which its course is divided. According to their calculations, the following facts have been considered as sufficiently established:—

4. In a growing generation, the half died in the first ten years of existence, and even sooner.

5. Three-fourths had perished before fifty years, and four-fifths at sixty ; or, in other words, of a hundred individuals, fifteen only arrived at this age.

6. From eighty to a hundred years, none remained : a whole generation had run its course.

7. The general proportion of deaths was determined to be as one to thirty-two, and that of births as one to twenty-eight.

8. It was reckoned that there was one marriage in a hundred and ten or a hundred and fifteen individuals, and that the degree of fecundity was pretty accurately represented by four children for each couple, although, at the same time, this, as well as all the other relations, was liable to vary according to the places. In Spain and Italy, there were only two children from each marriage ; in France and Russia four ; from six to eight in Germany, and from eight to eleven in Sweden.

9. All these facts were deduced from the calculations of Necker, Moheau, and the Pommelles, in France ; those of Short and Price, in England ; of Süssmilch, in Germany, and of Fargentin, in Sweden.

10. Such then, about the year 1780, were the principal laws to which a more or less perfect state of society, a more or less active industry, and more or less limited means of existence, subjected the course of human life in Europe.

11. Since then facts have increased, and at the same time have become more accurate, great political changes have taken place ; civilization and the arts of industry have advanced with rapidity ; and science demands that we examine what may have been their influence upon human life.

12. We have seen what were its laws half a century ago : with the old state, let us compare the present.

We have already said that the inquiries into this subject were now facilitated by the possession of more nu-

merous and more extensive documents. Of these documents we shall take the official accounts inserted in the different periodical collections, which have continued to publish them with care for several years. We shall cite especially of these collections, the *Bulletin Universel des Sciences*, by Baron Ferrussac, and the *Annales des Voyages et de la Géographie*, by Messrs Eyries and Malte-Brun, &c.

13. At the period in which we write, 1825, of a certain number of children born in Europe, there dies in the first ten years, a little more than a third (38.3 in 100), in place of the half (49.9), which formerly died.

14. From birth to fifty years, three-fourths of a generation (74.2) were found to be extinct. At present, the proportion of dead to living, in the same period of time, is not more than three-twentieths, or sixty-six.

15. Lastly, twenty-three persons in a hundred now arrive at sixty, in place of eighteen, who attained that age half a century ago.

16. These proportions are mean terms ; taken separately they become still more favourable. Thus, in France, the proportion of those who survive at sixty years is 24.3 in the hundred, while formerly it did not exceed fifteen (14.7).

These results, sufficiently remarkable of themselves, give rise to others which are not less so.

17. From the 40th degree of latitude to the 65th, that is to say, upon a line which extends from Lisbon to Stockholm, embracing an extent of about a thousand leagues, and in a population of sixty-five millions of individuals, which is comprehended by Portugal, the kingdom of Naples, France, England, Prussia, Denmark, and Sweden, the proportion of deaths is one in 40.3 ; that of births 1 in 30.1 ; that of marriages 1 in 123.3 ; and the fecundity, four children by each marriage.

18. On comparing these relations with those of the last century, we are

struck with the difference which exists in the actual mortality of early life at these two periods, a difference which is not less than that between 38 and 150.

19. This difference would itself suffice to attest the happy effects of vaccination, to which they are partly owing; but it also proves a great amelioration with respect to the cares bestowed on childhood; and those cares themselves indicate a greater prosperity and an improved condition in families. If we now reflect that it was especially in the lower classes that the mortality of children was enormous, we may conclude, that if these classes lose fewer at the present day, it is because they are in a better state for taking care of them, and bringing them up.

20. Nor is it less evident also, that if these same causes, as well as some others, had not extended their influence beyond the years of childhood, they would only have had the melancholy advantage of delivering over to death a greater number of victims in the stages which follow. The contrary, however, takes place, and at the present day more individuals attain the fiftieth and sixtieth year than formerly. The action of these preserving causes of childhood must therefore continue to operate upon the grown-up person during the remaining part of his career; and these preserving causes are in our eyes, to sum them up into one which contains them all, an improved state of society, a more diffused civilization, from whence results a more happy and easy existence.

21. Along with the fact of the diminution of the number of deaths, we have to place a second, which equally results from the comparison of the two epochs, namely, that of the diminution of marriages. They were formerly in the proportion of one in a hundred and ten individuals; they are

now in that of one to a hundred and twenty-three. This, which is a mean term, is even too high for some countries. In France, where, according to the calculations of Necker, there was one marriage in a hundred and eleven individuals, there is only reckoned one in a hundred and thirty-five.

22. The natural consequence of the diminution of marriages is that of births. This diminution is always proportional to the increase of the population; for while the proportion of marriages to it has fallen from a hundred and ten to a hundred and twenty-three, and that of births from twenty-eight to thirty, it is yet remarked, that the one and the other are augmented in a certain degree.

23. The fecundity would appear to have remained the same. In the present century, as in the last, the numerical expression which represents it is always four children for each marriage. But this proportion is undoubtedly not the true one, since we are obliged to include among the births that of the illegitimate children, from the defect of proper distinctions in the accounts of births, especially in foreign countries. In France, the exact proportion of births to marriages is 3.9.

24. The marriages, as well as births, have diminished in Europe within these fifty years, and yet the population is seen to increase. This apparent contradiction is explained by another fact, the very great diminution of the proportion of deaths. There was formerly one death in thirty-two individuals; there is at present one in 40.3. This diminution of the mortality bears chiefly upon the earlier stages of life. There are, on the one hand, more newly-born individuals that survive, and on the other more adults that grow old.

25. The necessary result of this latter state of things is the prolongation of the middle period of life, which ap-

appears in fact to extend beyond the limits within which it was formerly confined.

26. The simultaneous diminution of the marriages and deaths in Europe at the present day confirms Mr Malthus's observation, that whenever the deaths are numerous, the marriages are so also; for then the vacuities must be filled up, and there is room for everybody; and that, on the contrary, whenever there are few deaths, there are also few marriages. The reason of this, in fact, is, that from the moment when the augmentation of individuals begins to fill all the paths of life, and to obstruct all its courses, the means of existence become more and more scarce and un-

certain. People must then be much restrained from gratifying the desire of marrying, and having a family, by the difficulty which is foreseen of providing for them. Thus, although it may appear paradoxical, it is not the less true, that there comes a period when population forms an obstacle to population, and industry arrests industry.

27. From all that has been stated, it would appear that the following conclusions may be drawn:—

28. The laws of mortality, such as they were established fifty years ago by the philosophers who were then engaged in their investigation, appear since that period to have undergone the following modifications:—

Mortality of the Different Ages.

	Old State.	New State.
From birth to the age of 10,	50 in 100	38.3 in 100
. 50,	74.4 ...	66.0 ...
. 60,	82.0 ...	77.0 ...
Proportion of deaths,	1 : 32.2	1 : 40.3
. births,	1 : 27.7	1 : 30.1
. marriages,	1 : 110.4	1 : 123.3
Fecundity,	4.0	4.0

29. This table, without doubt, contains errors, owing to the incorrectness of several of the accounts given. There is a means, however, of remedying this defect, which would be, that in each country where the laws of its population, and the numbers which express them, are well known, while they are only known through the medium of printing, which too often alters them, some person accustomed to calculations of this description, or even learned societies, would publish accounts

similar to those which we have given. From these various elements, a general and accurate mean might then be obtained.

It is with this view that we have published the present note, and that we join to it the state of the population of France in particular, such as it was at the time of Necker in 1780, and such as it is at the present day in 1825, according to the *Annuaire du Bureau des Longitudes* for the year 1826.

	Old State in 10 years.	New State in 7 years.
	Population, 24,800,000 inhabitants.	Population, 30,400,000 inhabitants.
Deaths, . . .	818,490	261,230
Births, . . .	963,200	957,920
Marriages, . .	213,770	224,570
Natural Children,	20,480 ($\frac{1}{17}$)	65,760 ($\frac{1}{14}$)

Mortality at Different Ages.

	Old State in 10 years.	New State in 7 years.
From birth to the age of 10,	50.9 in 100	43.8 in 100
. 50,	74.4 ...	67.5 ...
. 60,	81.0 ...	75.6 ...
Proportion of deaths,	1 : 30.2	1 : 39.9
. births,	1 : 25.7	1 : 31.7
. marriages,	1 : 111.3	1 : 135.3
Fecundity,	4.4	3.9

Now, if we bring in connexion with these new laws of mortality, the political changes which have taken place in Europe within these forty years, and especially in France, we shall perhaps be correct, while at the same time it will afford us pleasure in thinking that good institutions and well regulated governments alone have this happy privilege, that, under their paternal influence, human life is preserved and prolonged, while it is consumed, and is quickly extinguished, by injustice and oppression.

We had concluded this note, when M. Dureau de la Malle, who is at this moment employed in very extensive researches regarding the ancient population of Italy, communicated to us the following result :

His numerous readings have satisfied him, that the senate first, and afterwards the Roman emperors, did not neglect in their administration any of the statistical accounts which several modern states collect at the present day, with so much pains and accuracy. He has even been enabled, by means of the various documents furnished by the *digeste* and the Roman laws, to reproduce the complete tables of the requisitions which the censors addressed to the citizens, and it is found that they entered into details in this respect, much more extended than ours, regarding the sexes, ages, professions, the different kinds of cultivation, the number of slaves, &c.

But what is more interesting still,

M. Dureau has discovered in the Pandects the calculations of the probability of life for all ages, and he has thus obtained proof that the mean duration of life in Italy was thirty years in the reign of Alexander Severus, toward the end of the third century; and it is known that this was also nearly its duration fifty years ago (twenty-eight years.)

We leave to M. Dureau himself the task of presenting this fact in his work, surrounded by all the considerations which attach to it, and which will reduce it to the place which it ought to occupy in science. But the fact itself, which at once connects what is with what has been, by making to disappear an interval of two thousand years, and which refers to so early a period the first recognitions of the laws of human life, appeared to us so curious and so interesting, that we gladly availed ourselves of M. Dureau's permission to attach it to our note, and publish it.

General Observations on the former and present Geological Condition of the Countries discovered by Captains Parry and Ross. By Professor Jameson.

The observations made during the four Arctic Expeditions, viz. that under Captain Ross, and the three under Captain Parry, afford the following general facts and inferences :

1. That the regions explored abound in primitive and transition rocks; that, although the secondary rocks occupy

considerable tracts, still their extent is more limited than that of the older formations; that the alluvial deposits are not extensive; that true or modern volcanic rocks were nowhere met with; and that the only traces of the tertiary strata were found in the sandstones and clays connected with the secondary traps of Baffin's Bay.

2. That the primitive and transition islands were, in all probability, at one time connected together, and formed a continuous mass with the continental parts of America; and that, in the plains and hollows of this land were deposited the secondary limestones, sandstones, gypsum, and coal, and upon these again the tertiary rocks.

3. That, after the deposition of these secondary and tertiary rocks, the land appears to have been broken up, and reduced either suddenly or by degrees, or partly by sudden and violent action, and partly by the long-continued agency of the atmosphere and the ocean, into its present insular and peninsular form; and that, consequently, the secondary and tertiary formations were formerly, in those regions, more extensively distributed than they are at present.

4. That, previous to the deposition of the coal-formation, as that of Melville Island, the transition and primitive hills and plains supported a rich and luxuriant vegetation, principally of cryptogamous plants, especially the ferns, the prototypes of which are now met with only in the tropical regions of the earth. The fossil corals of the secondary limestones also intimate, that before, during, and after, the deposition of the coal-formation, the waters of the ocean were so constituted as to support *polyparia*, closely resembling those of the present equatorial seas.

5. That previous to, and during, the deposition of the tertiary strata, these now frozen regions supported forests of dicotyledonous plants, as is shown by

the fossil dicotyledonous woods met with in connexion with these strata in Baffin's Bay, and by the fossil wood of Melville Island, Cape York, and Byam Martin Island.

6. That the boulders or rolled blocks met with in different quarters, and in tracts distant from their original localities, afford evidence of the passage of water across them, and at a period subsequent to the deposition of the newest solid strata, namely, those of the tertiary class.

7. That nowhere are there any discoverable traces of the agency of modern volcanoes; and we may add, that, in the Arctic regions, the only appearances of this kind are those in Jan Mayen's Island, described by Scoresby.

8. That the only intimations of older volcanic action are those afforded by the presence of secondary trap-rocks, such as basalt, greenstone, trap-tuffa, and amygdaloid.

9. That the black bituminous coal, the coal of the oldest coal-formation, which some speculators maintain to be confined to the more temperate and warmer regions of the earth, is now proved, by its discovery in Melville Island, far to the west, and in Jameson's Land, far to the east, in Old Greenland, to form an interesting and important feature in the geognostical constitution of arctic countries.

10. That the red sandstone of Possession Bay, &c. renders it probable that rock-salt may occur in that quarter.

11. That, although no new metalliferous compounds have occurred to gratify the curiosity of the mineralogist, yet the regions explored by Captain Parry have afforded various interesting and highly useful ones, such as octahedral or magnetic iron-ore, rhomboidal or red iron-ore, prismatic or brown iron-ore, and prismatic chrome-ore, or chromate of iron; also the common ore of copper, or copper pyrites; molybdena glance, or sulphuret of molybdena;

ore of titanium ; and that interesting and valuable mineral, graphite or black lead.

12. That the gems, the most valued and most beautiful of mineral substances, are not wanting in the Arctic regions visited by the expeditions, is proved by the great abundance of the precious garnet, which we doubt not will be found, on more particular examination of the primitive rocks, to present all the beautiful colours and elegant forms for which it is so much admired. Rock-crystal, another of the gems, was met with, and also beryl and zircon.

13. That these newly discovered lands exhibit the same general geognostical arrangements as occur in all other extensive tracts of country hitherto examined by the naturalist ; a fact which strengthens that opinion which maintains that the grand features of nature, in the mineral kingdom, are everywhere similar, and, consequently, that the same general agencies must have prevailed generally during the formation of the solid mass of the earth.

14. Lastly, That the apparent irregularities which, at first sight, present themselves to our attention, in the grand arrangements in the mineral kingdom, are the offspring of our own feeble powers of observation, and disappear when the phenomena are examined in all their relations. It is then, indeed, that the mind obtains those enduring and sublime views of the Deity, which, in geology, reward the patient observer, raise one of the most beautiful and interesting departments of natural science to its true rank, and prove that its relations connect, as it were, in the scale of magnitude, the phenomena of the earth with those more extensive arrangements presented to our intelligence in the planetary system, and in the grand frame-work of the universe itself.

Overland Arctic Expedition.

As any notice, however short, of the scientific doings of this enterprise, cannot fail to prove acceptable, we give the following details:—

“ Fort Franklin, Great Bear Lake,
February 6, 1826.

“ Nothing of any importance has occurred since I wrote you last, except that we have received a friendly message from the Esquimaux, through the Sharp Eyes, a neighbouring tribe, who frequent Fort Good Hope, the most northerly of the Company's posts. On the 29th of November last, the S.W. quarter of the sky was cloudless, but of a pure *emerald-green colour* (compared at the moment with Syme's book), soon fading away into mountain-green. The rays of the sun setting to the S.S.E., at the same time tinged some clouds gold-yellow, &c. The aurora has not been so frequent, and our observations of course upon it are not so interesting, as at Fort Enterprise. As far as they go, they confirm the few general remarks then hazarded, although I think not favourable, in general, to Hansteen's theory. With regard to facts, Captain Franklin's observations and Hansteen's seem to agree. The *Edinburgh Philosophical Journal*, for March 1825, reached us last month, and has proved a great treat to us. I am glad to see it go on so vigorously.

“ We expect, if everything prospers with us, and at present we have no reason to fear any misadventure, that we shall reach England early in November 1827. This is rather too quick a movement for the purposes of science. Even a cursory view of the geology of the Rocky Mountains skirting Mackenzie's River might occupy some months very pleasantly ; but the delay of a few days here is the loss of a season, and we

cannot reckon on more than two months in the year for such purposes."

"Fort Franklin, Great Bear Lake,
March 23, 1826.

"MY DEAR SIR,

"IN consequence of an imperfect, but very interesting, Indian report of Captain Parry's wintering on the coast, and which Captain Franklin is desirous of investigating, I have another opportunity of writing to you this season. The particulars of the report, when ascertained, will be transmitted to Mr Barrow, from whom you may get them.

"I mentioned, in a former letter, that a formation of *lignite* occurs in this quarter. The lignite has a slaty structure, thinish, or only moderately thick; and, when exposed to the atmosphere, cracks into forms generally nearly rectangular. Some portions, which are rather thick slaty, with a flat conchoidal fracture in the small, bear a very near resemblance to the slaggy mineral pitch or bitumen so common in the limestone formation of Slave River (zechstein?). It is distinguished from it when put in the fire.

"In the more common form of the lignite, the surface of the slates is more dull and earthy, of a brownish-black colour, but yielding a shining streak. These slates are entirely composed of fragments, having all the appearance of charred wood united together by a paste of more comminuted woody matter, mixed perhaps with a minute portion of clay. In the paste, there are some minute perfectly transparent crystals, having the form of compressed four-sided prisms, and sometimes of tables. The fibrous structure of the woody fragments is fine, and the lustre resembles that of fresh well-made charcoal of brick. The structure is evidently *exogenous*. The fragments are generally small, but, when several inches in diameter, their layers of structure are wa-

ved and curved, as if they had been knots, which of course would not so easily break down as the other portions. One of my specimens shows a small grain, either of resin or of amber; and I have picked out of another a membranous substance, which has all the appearance of a portion of *Ulva montana* (Bot. App. Franklin's Journey), common here at the present time. I inclose this minute specimen, which has already suffered some diminution in the course of my examination of it. Muriatic acid produced no change in it; but I was afraid to try the nitric acid, lest it should destroy it.

"When put into the fire the lignite burns without flame, and emits a very disagreeable stench, unlike that of either peat or of sulphur. The combustion does not cease when the coal is removed from the fire, but goes on slowly, until there is only a brownish-red ash remaining, not one-tenth of the original bulk of the specimen.

"The beds of lignite lie on the east side of Bear Lake River, where it joins the Mackenzie, are in the aggregate six or seven yards thick, and are covered by a thick bed of loose sand. They were on fire when Sir A. Mackenzie discovered the river (in 1789), and have continued burning ever since. At the distance of a few hundred yards up the Bear Lake River, there are some thick beds of a coarse, bluish-grey, earthy-looking sand-stone, (very like that on the north side of the Calton-Hill,) dipping at a small angle under the lignite. They were not seen in actual contact. On the opposite side of Bear Lake River, which is 200 yards wide, a craggy hill of (carboniferous?) limestone rises abruptly to the elevation of 400 feet. About 30 miles farther up Bear Lake River, and nearly east from its mouth, the stream cuts the base of another limestone hill, of similar form and height, belonging to a chain of (partly transition?) hills, which

runs N.W. and S.E. through a flat country. At the foot of the nearly vertical limestone, but separated from it by a small rivulet, there are thick horizontal beds of sandstone, resembling that at the mouth of Bear Lake River. Upon this sandstone lie a number of thin beds of bituminous shale and sandstone, which weather easily. In the shale there are impressions of ferns (*polypodiaceæ*), and in the slaty sandstone *lepidodendra*. I have had no opportunity of examining these rocks, excepting very cursorily, as we passed them in the boat, and occasionally snatched a specimen; but I purpose, if the snow disappears long enough before the opening of the navigation, to visit them carefully this spring. The finest sections on the banks of the river will be hid by accumulations of ice till the autumn."

Meteoric Stone.—A meteoric stone, weighing 16 pounds 7 ounces, fell from the air at Nanjemoy, Maryland, 10th February 1825. It was taken from the ground about half an hour after its fall, was sensibly warm, and had a sulphureous smell. It had a hard vitreous surface; its interior was earthy, and of a light slate-colour; and contained numerous hard, brown globules of various sizes, together with small portions of iron-pyrites.

Platina found in Russia.—This mineral has been discovered in the Uralian Mountains, and, like the platina of Choco in South America, associated with fragments of greenstone. The grains are rich in osmium and iridium. At Choco the grains contain osmium, iridium, and paladium; in the Brazils alone, grains of paladium are found mixed with grains of platina, gold, and diamonds.

Notice regarding a Phenomenon observed in the Island of Meleda, in the Province of Ragusa.

The Island of Meleda, where the occurrence that we are about to relate took place, is situated in the Adriatic Sea, opposite the territory of Ragusa, of which it forms a part. Its length is seven leagues, and its greatest breadth one. About the middle of the island is situated the valley of Babinopoglie, half a league in breadth, and surrounded with pretty high mountains. A village of the same name occupies the centre of the valley. On the 20th March, at day break, a noise was heard for the first time at Babinopoglie, similar to the report of a cannon; which, although it appeared to be the result of distant explosions, caused a sort of shaking in the doors and windows of the houses of the village. This noise was heard daily after. During the three first months, the inhabitants were undecided regarding the place from whence these noises proceeded; some thinking that a vessel was exercising in the open sea, or in one of the ports of Dalmatia; others that the Turkish artillery were training in one of the towns of the Ottoman frontier. These conjectures serve to show, that the reports were not accompanied with any local symptoms of earthquake, or any motion of the atmosphere. The governor of the island posted people on the heights around Babinopoglie to discover, if possible, the direction from which the sound came; but they were unable to observe any constant direction, as the sounds were heard sometimes on one side, sometimes on another, and sometimes over head. The governor himself went down into some deep and spacious caverns, that existed in the island, but here there reigned a perfect silence. The effect was most sensible

at Babinopoglie, and diminished from this point, so as to be scarcely perceptible at the extremities of the island. There were four, ten, or even a hundred detonations in the day; their loudness increased to such a degree, that they might be likened to the reports of a gun of large caliber. They took place in all seasons, at every hour of the day, whether the weather was fine or stormy, whether the tide was flowing or ebbing, and whether the sea was calm or agitated. It was in the month of August 1823 that they became most violent. No rain had fallen for four months; the brooks were dried up, and the rivers of the mainland were very low. Things went on thus until the month of February 1824. A silence of seven months then ensued; but the reports commenced again in September, and continued until the middle of March 1825, although they were much weaker, and at greater intervals. They then ceased, but it cannot be known whether this silence is to be permanent. There have been intermissions of several months during the phenomenon, but the cessation of the noise was preceded by very loud reports, and before this last cessation they became weaker and weaker. The reports were never accompanied with any luminous appearance; no local modification of the atmosphere was observed during their continuance; the barometer and electrometer manifested no extraordinary movement. Nor was there any true earthquake, although the doors and windows were shaken. The nature of the sound indicated nothing subterraneous, but rather an explosion in the surrounding atmosphere. Dr Stulli of Ragusa, who narrates the above details, supposes these reports to have been occasioned by the emission of quantities of gas elaborated by some volcanic fire, situated beneath the island, or communicating with it, which,

on escaping, struck the air with violence, and so produced the reports.—*Bibliothèque Universelle.*

Geognosy of Palestine.—From the observations of Professor Hall, Dr Clarke, and other naturalists, it appears, that Palestine is principally composed of secondary limestone, intermingled with trap-rocks; and the following, among other facts, are illustrations of the truth of this position. The country between Jerusalem and Jaffa is of compact limestone; the hill on which Nazareth is built is of a grey-coloured compact limestone; the Field of Blood, mentioned by St Matthew, is of friable limestone; David's Cave, mentioned in 1 Samuel, xxiv. appears to be situated in limestone; the Mount of Olives is of limestone, in part granular; limestone occurs in the Valley of Jehoshaphat; the rocks around the Pool of Siloah are of limestone; a beautiful granular, foliated limestone, or marble, occurs at the Grave of Lazarus; on Mount Zion, the rocks are of a conchoidal greyish siliceous limestone; Mount Lebanon appears principally composed of limestone; Mount Carmel is interesting, on account of the large balls of quartz contained in the limestone,—these balls have been described as petrified melons, but are merely of quartz in the state of hornstone, and including layers of calcedony, and crystals of quartz; all the rocks around Jerusalem are of compact limestone, and the numerous tombs in the neighbourhood of that city are hewn in hard, compact limestone; Mount Tabor, Bethel, Capernaum, also afforded specimens of limestone to the American missionary, the Rev. Pliny Fisk, to whom Professor Hall was indebted for the collection from the Holy Land, which he has described in the Number of Silliman's American Journal of Sciences and Arts for June 1825.

Rare Scottish Plants.—In a walk through the island of Skye, the west of Ross-shire, and Sutherland, to Caithness, in August last, Dr Graham and Mr John Home ascertained the following new stations for some rare Scotch plants:—*Apargia Taraxici*, *Arabishispida glabrans variety*, *Luzula arcuata*, *Aira lavigata vivipara*, *Cerastium latifolium*, on disjointed quartz rock, near the summit of Fonniven, a mountain about 3000 feet high, top of Loch Inchard in Sutherland; the last also on Ben-Hope, on micaceous rock. *Salix stuartiana*, *Carex capillaris*, *Serratula alpina*, *Arabis hispida hairy variety*, on micaceous rocks of Ben-Hope. The *Arabis hispida* is abundant on Fonniven, as well as Ben-na-Callich, in Skye; growing, not on damp spots near the sides of rivulets, as has been stated, but always among dry loose stones, at or near the summits. The species is by far most frequently smooth, no hairy specimen but one, picked on Ben-Hope, having been seen. It is said to be frequently hairy in Mull. *Carex limosa*, Batcall Moss, between Loch Inchard and Old-Shore. *Carex pulla*, shoresouth of eastern extremity of Crinan Canal, and Coruisk, top of Loch Scavaig, Skye. *Malaxis pulidosa*, side of a stream leading from Ben-na-Callich to Loch Slappen, in Skye, about one-fourth of the way up the mountain; in considerable quantity in one small spot. *Stachys ambigua*, abundant near Aird, and at Uig, in Skye. *Betula nana*, low moor between Ben-Hope and Tongue, and at the foot of Ben-Loyal. *Aspidium dilatatum*, a remarkable variety, with long straggling alternate pinnae, Ben-Loyal, towards Tongue. *Subularia aquatica*, in Sword Loch, near the confines of Sutherland and Ross-shire, and in the river Kerry, at Kerrysdale, Gareloch; in this last situation, it had been previously seen by Dr Woodforde. *Orobanche rubra*, near the Spar Cave, Loch Slappen, and on the shore at Stenichall, Skye. This

plant was, this autumn (1825), for the first time in England, found by Dr Woodforde at the Devil's Frying-pan, Cornwall. *Circæa lutetiana*, Tobermory, island of Mull. This is the plant of the Flora Britannica, and quite different from the common luxuriant varieties of *Circæa alpina*, whether it be specifically distinct or not. *Primula Scotica*, in great abundance around Westfield, near Thurso. *Scutellaria galericulata* grows in abundance on many parts of the West Coast, on heaps of dry gravel above the high-water mark, and even on a dry stone wall south of the eastern entrance to the Crinan Canal. *Veronica officinalis var. rigida*, cliffs by the shore, near Portree, Skye. Till specimens in flower can be obtained, this may be considered a variety of *V. officinalis*, though there is much reason to believe it distinct. Leaves lanceolate, sharply, rather deeply, and sometimes twice toothed, shining, and very thick and rigid. Stems many, prostrate, rooting, nearly devoid of hairs; common flower-stalks covered with yellow pubescence; spike crowded; capsules more wedge-shaped, and less notched than in *V. officinalis*; slightly hairy. These plants are distinguished from *V. Allionii* by the shape of their leaves, and the depth of the serratures; and they are more rigid than any foreign specimens which Dr Graham has seen.

Balls in the Stomach of Fishes.—A globular substance is found on the shores of the Mediterranean, which has much resemblance to the balls of hair formed in the stomach of oxen, goats, and some wild animals, but which appears to be produced by an agglomeration of the leaves of *zostera marina* in the stomach of certain fishes. The people use them in many places on the coasts of Spain for keeping fire alive in the house. Before putting out the fire, which they may have been using for domestic purposes, they kindle one of

these balls by applying it to a piece of burning coal, and then deposit it in a corner of the chimney. The fire spreads slowly, so as not to consume the ball within less than twenty-four hours, by which means a light may be obtained at any time.—*Bullet. Univers. August 1825.*

East Indian Unicorn.—It having been asserted by the *Bhotens*, that an animal, called by them the *Chirsee*, was the *Unicorn*, and the horns which they produced proving that they spoke of no imaginary creature, exertions were made, we are told in the *Calcutta Oriental Magazine*, to procure a specimen of the animal in question. Accordingly, the skin of one was sent to the resident at *Atamandra*, with the horns attached, showing the animal to be no unicorn, but an antelope, of a species apparently new. There was no possibility of procuring it alive, as it frequents the most inaccessible part of the snowy mountains, among the haunts of the musk deer, and is exceedingly vigilant and easily alarmed. It is alleged, that although the animal produced has two horns, yet, that some individuals of the species have only one horn. The dimensions, so far as they could be taken from a shrivelled skin, were as follows: Total length 5 feet 8 inches; length of body 4 feet 2 inches; length of head 10 inches; length of horns 2 feet 1½ inches; tail 8 inches; ears 4½ inches. The colour is bluish grey, inclining to red, especially on the back; the hair, about an inch long, and resembling in structure that of the musk, with a mixture of very soft wool lying close to the skin. The forehead is nearly black, as well as the legs; the belly white; the snout whitish; the horns are placed very near each other, on the back of the head, and marked with annular prominences, which are most conspicuous on the upper side of the horn. The animal here imperfectly described, if a distinct species, will furnish an inter-

esting addition to the very extensive family of antelopes; but, as Cuvier remarks, it is surprising to find men still persisting to search for what the established laws of organic nature demonstrate to be a physical impossibility, namely, a ruminating animal, with a single horn placed upon the frontal suture. That the *Chirsee* should occasionally have only one horn, we can very readily believe, because such an occurrence is not uncommon among antelopes, but it is not natural, being merely the effect of accident; and as the horns of this species are described as being very close upon each other, the loss of one of them might easily induce an ignorant person, who had seen or procured an animal so mutilated, to imagine it a true unicorn.

Remarks on some Marine Fishes, and on their Geographical Distribution.
By M.M. Quoy and Gaimard.

This memoir is a general account of the observations which these two naturalists have made, during the voyage of the corvette *Urania*, round the world. It will contribute to throw some light upon the hitherto little investigated manners of the fishes which inhabit the vast solitudes of the ocean, and will serve as a point of departure, for connecting one day the observations which long voyages cannot fail to furnish to the attentive observer. Fishes, in fact, from the nature of the element which they inhabit, are more imperfectly known than the other classes of organized beings which are more easily subjected to investigation. But a real obstacle, which will long prove detrimental to the advancement of Ichthyology, is the little time which naturalists can devote or voyages to this study, in the richest and least known seas. Some general data are ably developed by our authors, who, besides, trace the limits of the parallels which certain fishes affect. At the head of the species which roam at

large through the solitudes of the ocean, they place the shark, giving new accounts of it, foreign to the popular histories, to which certain navigators have given their assent. They think, contrary to the opinion of M. Noël de la Morinière, that the *Squalus Carcharias* inhabits every sea that they have visited. Speaking of the Coryphenes and Scombri, they exhibit to us the swarms of these voracious fishes ploughing the seas in all directions, without fixed limits. Then, passing to the equatorial zones, they paint the brilliancy and richness of colouring which nature has imparted to the species which live in the midst of the coral-reefs, where they rival, in the vivacity and the delicate blending of their tints, the purest and most brilliant productions of the vegetable kingdom. Of this kind are the *Chetodons*, *Glyphisodons*, *Pomacentri*, *Acanthuri*, &c. On the other hand, in the places where the waves dash with fury upon the rocky shores, there live by preference, the tribe of the *Balistes*, the *Lubroides*, the *Somphoses*, *Diacopi*, *Scari*, and *Caranges*. But in all, according to our authors, gold and silver mingle their hues with the prismatic tints; everywhere in the torrid zone, the same phenomenon manifests itself. They also affirm, that the descriptions of Renard, which were so long supposed to be the products of imagination rather than the result of actual existence, are perfectly correct with regard to the marvellous reflections of colour; and that if there be errors in the case, they exist in the representations of the forms. But, in proportion as we recede from the zone, which is constantly warmed by torrents of heat, the rich livery of certain beings disappears, and gives place to duller tints. It is chiefly the fishes of New-Holland, Port-Jackson, the Cape of Good Hope, the Rio de la Plata, that are adduced as examples, although this modification of life experiences nu-

merous exceptions even in our own countries. Rio Janeiro, placed under the tropics, forms an exception to this rule, however; and the most common fishes have dull colours, and are in general *Rays*, and several species of the family of *Salmones*, such as the *Curriniates*, *Hydrocynes*, &c. The Volcanic Sandwich Islands are chiefly peopled with *Labroids*, which again appear not to have adopted the coasts of the Moluccas and Marian Islands, although abounding in corals and plants. Lastly, they indicate, in concluding, both the fishes, which, wandering from their native haunts, follow ships, sheltering themselves under their keel, and those which various navigators have fallen in with in thick shoals in a dead state, and destroyed by causes still little known. This memoir, the result of observations full of sagacity, will be most highly appreciated by those who have had an opportunity of judging on the spot of the facts which they have described with accuracy.—*Ann. des Sc. Nat.*

Steam Navigation.—While a great steam-vessel is crossing the Atlantic Ocean from the mouth of the Thames to the mouth of the Ganges; while other English vessels of the same description are intended to establish communications between Alexandria and the Island of Malta, several undertakings of a like nature, although not so extensive, are daily tending to give a greater activity to the navigation between the trading ports, upon the lakes and in the internal seas of Europe. A steam-boat goes from Hamburg to London in sixty hours: Another navigates between Kiel and Copenhagen, across the Baltic: A company is forming at Copenhagen, at this moment, for establishing a steam-boat upon the Kattegatt: A steam-boat navigates the Gulf of Finland, between the capitals of Russia and Sweden: A boat of a new construction has arrived at Stockholm. In

order to be employed upon the great lakes which open to Sweden a navigation, independent of the passage of the Sound. The trial of a steam-boat upon the Danube, between Vienna and Semlin, has not entirely answered; but it is believed that an improvement in the construction of the vessel will remedy the inconveniences which have been experienced. This communication will facilitate the commerce between Constantinople and all the northern parts of Turkey. The beautiful lakes of the Alps are beginning to be filled with steam-boats; those of the Lake of Constance are in full activity; that of the Lac Majeur is building. These vessels, and the new roads, will render twice as quick the communications between Augsbourg, on the one hand, and Milan and Genoa, on the other. An enterprise in which France is more directly interested, is that of the navigation from Mayence to Kehl. For the whole voyage from Rotterdam to Kehl, the following are the calculations of the times and distances:—

	h.	m.	leagues.
From Rotterdam to Cologne,	37	30	9
Cologne to Coblentz,	14	10	19
Coblentz to Mayence,	13	53	21
Mayence to Mannheim,	11	21	16
Mannheim to Schroeck,	11	24	14
Schroeck to Fort-Louis,	12	23	10
Fort-Louis to Kehl,	11		9
	111	45	148

Population.—In Great Britain, the number of individuals in a state to bear arms, from the age of 15 to 60, is 2,744,847. The number of marriages is about 98,030 yearly; and it has been remarked, that in sixty-three of these unions there were only three which had no issue. The number of deaths is about 332,708 yearly, which makes nearly 25,592 monthly, 6398 weekly, 914 daily, and forty hourly. The deaths among the women are in proportion to those of the men as fifty to fifty-four.

The married women live longer than those who continue in celibacy. In the country, the mean term of the number of children produced by each marriage is four; in towns the proportion is seven for every two marriages. The number of married women is to the general number of individuals of the sex as one to three; and the number of married men, to that of all the individuals of the male sex, as three to five. The number of widows is to that of widowers as three to one; but the number of widows who marry again, is to that of widowers in the same case, as seven to four. The individuals who inhabit elevated situations live longer than those who reside in less elevated places. The half of the individuals die before attaining the age of seventeen years. The number of twins is to that of ordinary births as one to sixty-five. According to calculations founded upon the bills of mortality, one individual only in 3126 attains the age of 100 years. The number of births of the male sex is to that of the female sex as ninety-six to ninety-five.

Tables for converting Scotch Land Measure into Imperial Land Measure, and for finding the Rent, Produce, or Value of an English Acre, having given that of a Scots Acre.

Before the act for ascertaining and establishing uniformity of weights and measures was passed, there was no certain rule for determining the proportion of the Scots to the English acre, on account of the want of agreement among surveyors as to the exact length of the Scotch ell. Now, however, the length of the ell has been ascertained by a careful and scientific measurement, and the result as well as the proportion of the Scots to the English acre declared by a Jury appointed by the Sheriff-depute of the county of Edinburgh. Their verdict, which is dated 4th February 1826, finds, that the standard Scots ell, at the

temperature of 62° of Fahrenheit, contains 37.0598 Imperial standard inches; and, consequently, that the Scots chain contains 74.1196 Imperial standard feet, and that the English or Imperial acre has to the Scots acre the proportion of 1 to 1.26118345. From these data, the two following concise Tables have been constructed. The first serves to convert any number of Scots acres, roods,

falls, and ells, into Imperial acres and the decimal fraction of an acre; and by the second, having given the rent or value of the produce of one, or any number of Scots acres, the rent or value of the produce of the same number of Imperial acres may be found. Their construction is sufficiently obvious, and their application must be manifest from the examples which follow them.

Table for converting Scots Acres, Roods, &c. into Imperial Acres.

Scots Acres.	Imperial Acres.	Scots Roods.	Imperial Acre.	Scots Falls.	Imperial Acre.	Scots Ells.	Imperial Acre.
1	1.26118345	1	.31530	1	.007882	1	.000219
2	2.52236690	2	.63059	2	.015765	2	.000438
3	3.78355035	3	.94589	3	.023647	3	.00067
4	5.04473380			4	.03153	4	.00088
5	6.30591725			5	.03941	5	.00109
6	7.56710070			6	.04729	6	.00131
7	8.82828415			7	.05518	7	.00153
8	10.08946760			8	.06306	8	.00175
9	11.35065105			9	.07094	9	.00197

Table for finding the Rent, Produce, &c. of an Imperial Acre, having given those of a Scots Acre.

Rent, Produce, &c.		Rent, Produce, &c.		Rent, Produce, &c.	
Scots Acre.	Imperial Acre.	Scots Acre.	Imperial Acre.	Scots Acre.	Imperial Acre.
£	£	s.	£	d.	£
1	.79291	1	.0396	1	.0033
2	1.58581	2	.0793	2	.0066
3	2.37872	3	.1189	3	.0099
4	3.17162	4	.1586	4	.0132
5	3.96453	5	.1982	5	.0165
6	4.75744	6	.2379	6	.0198
7	5.55034	7	.2775	7	.0231
8	6.34325	8	.3172	8	.0264
9	7.13615	9	.3568	9	.0297
10	7.92906	10	.3965	10	.0330
				11	.0363

EXAMPLE of use of Table I.—Convert
3258 Scots Acres 2 R. 31 F. 28 E. in-
to Imperial Acres :

		Imperial Acres.
3000	} Scots Acres =	3783.55035
200		252.23669
50		63.05917
8		10.08917
2	Roods =	.63059
30	} Falls =	.23617
1		.00788
20	} Ells =	.00138
8		.00175
		<hr/>
		Imperial Acres, 4109.81675
		= 4109 A. 3 R. 10 P. 20.6 Y.

EXAMPLE of use of Table II.—A Scots
Acre was sold for £82 : 12 : 9 ; hence
find the value of an Imperial Acre ?

80	} Pounds =	£63.4325
2		1.5858
10	} Shill. =	.3965
2		.0793
9	Pence =	.0297

Value of Imp. A. = £65.6258
= £65 : 10 : 5 $\frac{71}{100}$

It may be useful to surveyors to know that the exact length of the Imperial Chain has been laid down on the parapet in front of the Edinburgh University buildings.

Water-spouts in the Irish Channel.—Mr James Mackintosh, an accurate and intelligent observer, keeper of the Lower Light-house on the Calf of Man, in his monthly report to Robert Stevenson, Esq. engineer to the Northern Light-houses, mentions, that “on the morning of Tuesday the 14th November (1826), at a quarter to ten o’clock, he witnessed a remarkable phenomenon. The morning was clear, the wind from the east, inclining a little to the north, when he observed a column of water rising from the sea, off Kegger Point : this column was about the height and diameter of the lower lighthouse tower (which is

fifty feet high, and eighteen in diameter), and there was the appearance of a smoke or fine spray on the top. It seemed to be in rapid revolution, and likewise made great progress out to sea, maintaining the same figure till lost in the distance. This first column was immediately followed by a similar appearance from the same point, and which took the same direction. Fahrenheit’s thermometer was at 46° ; and the barometer fell to 28.52 on the evening of Monday the 13th, but had risen to 29.46 when the water-spouts were observed on the morning of the 14th.

CHAP. II.

EMINENT CHARACTERS DECEASED.

The Earl of Chichester—Bishop of Durham—Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles—Dr Milner—Mr Lindley Murray—Bishop of Calcutta—Lord Gifford—Dr Shipley—The Hon. Christopher Hely Hutchison—Bishop of Cloyne—M. Von Weber—Mr Michael Kelly—John Farquhar, Esq.—Mr Charles Inceledon—Mr Edward Knight—Charles Mills, Esq.—John Pinkerton, Esq.

THE EARL OF CHICHESTER ;
BARON PELHAM—HIS MAJESTY'S
POST-MASTER-GENERAL—A PRI-
VY COUNCILLOR IN IRELAND, AND
F.R.S.

THIS highly-honoured and esteemed nobleman was descended from a long line of patrician ancestors. Thomas Pelham, Esq. son of Thomas Pelham, of Stanmer, Sussex, succeeded, on the death of his cousin, Thomas Pelham, Duke of Newcastle, (many years the Prime Minister of George the Second,) in 1768, to the Barony of Pelham, of Stanmer, which had been conferred upon his Grace on the 5th of May, 1762 ; with limitation to this gentleman and his issue male ; and his Lordship was elevated to an earldom by patent, on the 23d of June 1801, as Earl of Chichester. He married, on the 11th of May 1754, Anne, daughter and heiress of Frederick M. Frankland, Esq., by whom he had issue, Thomas, the subject of this memoir, two other sons, and four daughters.

The late Earl was born at Spring-

Gardens, on April 28, 1756, was about seven years at Westminster school, and finished his education at Clare-Hall, Cambridge.

His entrance on public life was as commander of the Sussex militia, in which situation Lieutenant-Colonel Pelham, by the urbanity of his manners, and his strict attention to the duties and discipline of the regiment, attracted and retained the regard of the leading families of the county.

In the year 1780, Mr Pelham was elected a member of the House of Commons, and continued to be one of the representatives of the county of Sussex for twenty-one years ; during the whole of which time he was conspicuous for the soundness of his principles, for the judicious and temperate zeal with which he enforced his opinions, and for the just attachment which he manifested to the constitutional liberties of his country.

In 1782, Mr Pelham became Surveyor of the Ordnance.

Although elected in 1780, his Parliamentary *début* as a speaker was not made before the 10th of March 1783,

when, in the discussion on the Duke of Richmond's Report on the Ordnance Estimates for that year, he defended his Grace from the imputation of wishing to contrast his own conduct with that of his predecessor in the Ordnance Department, disadvantageously to the latter.

In the course of the same year (1783), Mr Pelham attended the Earl of Northington to Ireland as Chief Secretary.

Mr Pelham took an active part in the various animated debates which occurred in the House of Commons in the year 1785, on the subject of the celebrated Westminster scrutiny. When Mr Welbore Ellis moved, on the 9th of February, that the High Bailiff of Westminster should make a return forthwith of the members who had been chosen for that city, the motion was seconded by Mr Pelham.

Mr Pelham was appointed by the House of Commons one of the Managers of the Impeachment of Warren Hastings. Mr Pelham proceeded to detail the conduct of Mr Hastings towards the Nabob of Farruckabad, and moved that that should be one of the charges on which Mr Hastings should be impeached. After an animated debate, the motion was agreed to by a majority of sixty-two.

Mr Pelham was decidedly hostile to the Slave Trade. So early as 1788, he contended, "that if it were not judged advisable immediately to abolish the trade, at least it ought to be regulated:" and he added, "that he would himself submit a proposition to the House with that view."

At the commencement of the tremendous Revolution that desolated France, and by its infuriated and disorganising principles shook Europe to its centre, the Honourable Thomas Pelham was one of the enlightened and patriotic statesmen, who, to maintain the rectitude of political principle and

the temperate energies of rational liberty, quitted the associates of private friendship, and left the doubtful and dangerous doctrines of untried freedom to range themselves in defence of order, religion, and established government.

During the whole of the rebellion in 1798, a period of peculiar difficulty and alarm, Mr Pelham again held the important office of Chief Secretary for Ireland, under Marquis Camden.

On the 13th of April 1801, Mr Pelham, as chairman of the Commons' Committee of Secrecy on the State of Ireland, and the proceedings of certain disaffected persons in both parts of the United Kingdom, presented to that House the Report of the Committee, recommending the renewal of the measure for the suspension of the provisions of the Habeas Corpus Act; and on the following day he moved for leave to bring in a bill for that purpose; which motion, after a warm discussion, was agreed to; and the bill was brought in, went through all its stages, and was passed.

On the 29th of June 1801, Mr Pelham was called to the House of Peers by writ, with the title of Baron Pelham; and on the 16th of July, in the same year, he united himself in marriage with Mary Henrietta Juliana, the eldest and accomplished daughter of Francis, fifth Duke of Leeds.

On the formation of Mr Addington's administration, Lord Pelham was appointed Secretary of State for the Home Department.

In the debate in the House of Lords on the 3d of November 1801, on the preliminaries of peace with France, Lord Pelham vindicated the proposed treaty, and expressed his persuasion that the peace would be found advantageous and safe for the country. On the 29th of March 1802, he moved an address to the King, expressive of their Lordship's concurrence in enabling his

Majesty to provide for the arrears which had taken place in the Civil List. When Lord Grenville, on the 4th of May 1802, moved that the definitive treaty of peace should be taken into consideration on the 14th of that month, Lord Pelham defended the treaty, and moved an amendment that it be taken into consideration on the 12th ; which amendment was agreed to. On the 13th of May 1802, Lord Grenville moved an address to his Majesty, expressive of the disapprobation of the House of Lords of the late treaty of peace. A most warm and interesting debate (which lasted until nearly eight o'clock in the morning) followed, in the course of which Lord Pelham vindicated the treaty ; and at the close of which, Lord Grenville's motion having been negatived, Lord Pelham moved an address approving of the treaty, which was carried without a division.

In the debate of the 13th of December 1802, on the Malt Duty Bill, Lord Pelham replied to an attack made upon Ministers by Lord Grenville. He remarked, " that if, in the Noble Lord's opinion, the present Ministers were so unworthy of confidence, it was his Lordship's duty to go further than making speeches in opposition to them ; he ought to move an address to his Majesty for their removal. He (Lord Pelham) had never coveted office ; he had assumed it, at a critical and awful period, with no other view than for the service of his country ; he had acted to the best of his judgment, and did not wish to hold his situation a moment longer than he enjoyed the confidence of his country."

The bill for continuing the restriction on the Bank, was debated in the House of Lords on the 22d of February 1803. Lord Pelham took a cursory retrospect of the operation of the restriction since 1797, and maintained that sound policy demanded the temporary continuance of a measure, from

which, not only no mischief had accrued, but much benefit had resulted.

On the 23d of May 1803, the order of the day having been read for taking into consideration his Majesty's message relative to the discussions with France, Lord Pelham moved the address to his Majesty on the occasion. He said, " that after having maturely considered the papers in question, he had no difficulty in declaring the grounds of war contained therein, to be most strong, clear, and distinct ; and that the conclusion left on the minds of all men must be, that war was rendered inevitable." He then adverted briefly to the principal points of dispute between the two governments ; and maintained, " that the conduct of the French government exhibited one constant series of acts, totally inconsistent with a sincere desire to preserve peace ; and, therefore, that it became Parliament and the country to speak in terms of suitable indignation of such conduct."

During the time that Lord Pelham held the high office of Secretary of State for the Home Department, he conducted the police of the country, at that critical period a matter of exceeding difficulty, with distinguished moderation, unceasing attention, and inflexible rectitude. His Lordship's opinions and public acts, in this arduous department, are become the lessons of history ; but a most benevolent, a highly interesting, and an extensively useful measure, of a more private, though probably of a far more permanent nature, is not so generally known, although most worthy of general notice, and eminently deserving of general praise and grateful acknowledgment. Animated with an ardent zeal for the just liberties of mankind, and the best interests of his country, and satisfied that they could only be efficaciously and permanently supported by the exertions of literature, by rational discus-

sion, and by the wise and temperate results of a free press; and glowing, at the same time, with a truly Christian benevolence for the sufferings of many gifted individuals, whose genius and learning had benefited their fellow-creatures, without providing even bread for themselves,—Lord Pelham felt it to be a part of his duty, as one of the Ministers of the State, to recommend the case of distressed authors to the generous humanity of the Prince of Wales. His Royal Highness duly appreciated the kind, judicious, and patriotic intimation, and immediately sent an annual contribution of two hundred guineas to the Literary Fund, for the aid of deserving authors in distress, and graciously condescended to become patron of that excellent institution. The same liberality is continued, now that the Prince is become the monarch; and the names of the generous patron and of the intelligent adviser will together be transmitted to posterity in the grateful annals of the patriot, the poet, and the historian.

The state of his Lordship's health not being strong, in the course of the year 1803, he exchanged his office in the ministry, for the less fatiguing charge of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

On the 8th of January 1805, on the demise of his father, Lord Pelham succeeded to the Earldom of Chichester, and the paternal estates appended to that title.

In 1807, on the formation of the Duke of Portland's administration, the Earl of Chichester was appointed Joint-Postmaster-General with the Earl of Sandwich. On the reduction of this office, the Earl of Chichester alone held the appointment during the remainder of his life. The improvements that have been made in the conduct of the business, and the deep regrets of all engaged in the management of that extensive department, most impressively

ly declare how advantageously to the country, and how kindly to all the subordinate agents, the important and multifarious duties intrusted to the Postmaster-General were executed.

The distinguishing and beneficent features of his Lordship's character as a statesman and a magistrate, are evinced in the employments and recorded sentiments of a life actively and incessantly devoted to the service of the public. The tender, humane, and pious affections—the amiable and interesting virtues of domestic life, those of the husband, the parent, and the Christian—can be fully known and justly estimated only by those who had the happiness of participating in their influence; and whose greatest consolation now is to profit by and imitate that example, the loss of which they cannot cease to deplore.

Lady Chichester was early called to the painful and anxious duties of attending the couch of sickness, and watching the fluctuating sufferings of an affectionate husband. During the whole period of their union, her noble partner was subject to occasional attacks of disease. At length his constitution gave way; and this distinguished nobleman, whose condescending suavity of manners, kindness, generosity, and benevolence, adorned and gave additional power to the more public, prominent, and elevated qualities of his character, expired at his house in Stratton Street, on the 4th of July 1826, leaving, with his amiable Countess, a family of three sons and five daughters, to deplore their irreparable loss.

THE HONOURABLE AND RIGHT REVEREND SHUTE BARRINGTON, LL.D.
LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM.

SHUTE, the sixth son of John, first Lord Barrington, was born at Becket, in Berkshire, May 26, 1734, and was but seven months old when

he lost his father. At an early age he was sent to Eton. In 1752, Mr Barrington became a gentleman commoner of Merton College, Oxford, where, in 1755, he proceeded to his first degree, and obtained a fellowship. The year following he was ordained by Dr Secker, then Bishop of Oxford, and afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury. On the 10th of October 1757, he took his master's degree, and the same year was appointed to make a public oration on the munificent donation of the Pomfret marbles to the University, which task he executed with great applause. At the accession of his late Majesty, he was nominated one of the chaplains in ordinary, and in 1761 he was made canon of Christ Church, where, in 1762, he took his degree of doctor of law. About this time he married Lady Diana Beauclerk, only daughter of Charles, second Duke of St Alban's, but her ladyship died in 1766, without leaving any issue. In 1768, Dr Barrington was promoted to a Canonry of St Paul's, and on the 4th of October, in the following year, he was consecrated Bishop of Llandaff, which see had been just vacated by the translation of Dr Jonathan Shipley to St Asaph.

On the 20th of June 1770, the Bishop was married to his second wife, Jane, only daughter of Sir J. Guise, of Rendcombe, in Gloucestershire, and heiress of her brother, Sir William, the last baronet. This exemplary lady, whose memory will long be cherished by the poor of Durhan, died without ever having had any children, August 8, 1808, at her hereditary seat, Mongewell, in Oxfordshire, which continued to be the favourite residence of the Bishop during the remainder of his life.

Not long after his elevation to the see of Llandaff, a body of the clergy, and several of the rational dissenters, as they called themselves, petitioned both Houses of Parliament to abolish the obligation of subscription to the

thirty-nine articles. When this business came under discussion in the Lords, Bishop Barrington opposed the claims of the petitioners on strong grounds, by showing the necessity of some test as a security for the Established Church. Other peers, temporal as well as spiritual, resisted the application on the same principle, and the petitions were rejected by a great majority.

In 1775, Bishop Barrington preached at Bow Church the anniversary sermon before the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. This discourse was printed, as usual, with the Report of the institution, and it has since been republished in the Collection of his Lordship's Sermons and Charges.

In 1777, the Bishop exchanged his Canonry of St Paul's for one in the Collegiate Church at Windsor, on account of the health of Mrs Barrington, who suffered very much from the confined air of a town residence.

The alarming increase of the crime of adultery induced the Bishop of Llandaff, at the beginning of 1779, to propose a bill in the House of Lords for the more effectual prevention of that crying evil. After representing with great pathos the private miseries consequent on such offences, and the misfortune to the state from a cause which became so much the more dangerous, on account of its being a domestic disorder, he went on to state, that, in the first seventeen years of his Majesty's reign, the number of divorces which had occurred equalled what could be enumerated in the whole anterior period of the English history. There were, he said, two reasons for this,—one, the total extinction of that internal monitor, shame, in the present age, which our ancestors felt in full force; and the other, an injudicious relaxation of the penal laws in regard to this crime. By the common law of England, said the learned prelate, no woman after a di-

voice was permitted to regain her dower, or even to marry again within a limited time. But a method of evading this salutary statute had lately been discovered, by making previous settlements, or by entering into private bonds; so that a woman might now enjoy as many conveniences of rank and situation after a legal separation from her husband, as in the case of death, and where she had merited everything by her conjugal tenderness and fidelity.

The remedy proposed consisted in a restriction of the offending parties from intermarrying, which was opposed very strenuously by some noble lords, but was as ably supported by the Chancellor; and, on a division, the bill was sent to the Commons, where it was thrown out on the second reading, chiefly through the arguments of Mr Fox and his friends.

In 1781 the Bishop of Llandaff experienced a loss which he keenly felt, in the death of his intimate friend, Sir William Blackstone, whom he visited frequently in his illness, ministered to him the offices of religion, and, at the desire of the Judge, read the burial service at his funeral.

Shortly after this, the see of Salisbury becoming vacant by the demise of Dr John Hume, Bishop Barrington was nominated thereto, without his knowledge, by the King, who gave a peremptory refusal to the application of the Prime Minister, the Earl of Shelburne, in favour of Dr Hinchliffe, Bishop of Peterborough. His Majesty was well acquainted with the merits of Dr Barrington, to whom, after this appointment, he gave the familiar appellation of "his Bishop," perhaps in allusion to the situation of Windsor, which lies in the diocese of Salisbury; or rather, as there is reason to believe, to express his regard for the personal virtues of the amiable prelate.

How well the good Bishop deserved the royal confidence, appeared soon af-

ter in the improvements of the Cathedral and Palace of Salisbury. To restore the church to its pristine dignity, and to give strength and ornament to the building, constituted an early and favourite idea of the new Bishop. He determined upon opening a subscription for the repairing and beautifying of the Cathedral; and he had the satisfaction to witness the full success of his plan.

While the work was going on, a gentleman plainly dressed visited the Cathedral one day, and after surveying the place, asked the person in attendance to let him see the subscription-book, which was produced; when he immediately presented a bank-bill for one thousand pounds as his donation. The officer stared, and respectfully desired to know what change he must return, and what name he should enter. "Oh," said the stranger, "take the whole; and place it to the account of a country gentleman of Berkshire." This was done, and the country gentleman was afterwards discovered in George the Third.

Bishop Barrington, though he subscribed munificently to the improvements of the church, took the whole expense of the repairs of the Palace, which was in a very dilapidated state, upon himself. While he held this see, he laid out not much less than ten thousand pounds upon the Episcopal residence. But Bishop Barrington was not merely mindful of the comforts of himself and his successors; for he also settled a permanent fund of two thousand pounds, the interest of which is yearly distributed among the poor clergy and their families; and he also applied six thousand pounds to the augmentation of the revenues of the almshouses of St Nicholas, in the city of Salisbury.

In 1783 the Bishop of Salisbury held his first visitation of the diocese, on which occasion he delivered a charge,

that was soon afterwards printed at the desire of the clergy. This pastoral address, however, gave offence to some persons, on account of the animadversions which the right reverend monitor thought it his duty to bestow upon the ministers of the church who introduced the doctrines of Calvin into their churches, instead of that practical divinity which tends to edification. The charge, therefore, immediately on its appearance from the press, was attacked with great severity, the Bishop being most unjustly accused, as trying to extinguish the small sparks of devotion which were still left among us, and with endeavouring to hold up sterling piety to contempt. No one, however, that had the slightest knowledge of the Bishop's private character, or had marked his public conduct, could be affected by such aspersions, which only rebounded upon the party, who, while they pretended to be actuated by an ardent concern for religion, had forgotten that zeal without charity is nothing worth.

It was a little before this, that the Bishop of Salisbury communicated some very valuable notes to the third edition of "Boyer's Critical Conjectures on the New Testament." Instead of rashly proposing new readings to remove a supposed difficulty, the Bishop laid it down as a rule, never to alter any approved or well-authenticated text whatever. In these contributions, therefore, he suggested only those alterations in the lections which might possibly be more correct, by the changing, pointing, or attaching a word to the second part of the sentence in room of the first; and *vice versa*. As the books of the Greek Testament were originally written without the arbitrary division into verses, or any punctuation to mark the several clauses of a paragraph, the Bishop was in the habit of reading the sacred volume on this plan, each narrative or epistle as a summary discourse without breaks; and this practice, which met

with the approbation of his friends, Kennicott and Blayney, he often recommended to young clergymen and students. Nor ought we here to omit, that some years since, Bishop Barrington established a fund sufficient to produce the sum of one hundred pounds a-year, which is divided among the most necessitous of the clergy of Llandaff, by their diocesan. In 1789, the Bishop of Salisbury published "A Letter to his Clergy," containing general rules for their conduct, and directions to be observed in regard to Orders, Institutions, and Licenses.

In 1791, Dr Thomas Thurlow, Bishop of Durham, died, on which, of course, a pretty active stir was made to succeed him, by the aspiring members of the episcopal bench; the principal of whom was Dr Cornwallis, Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry, whose pretensions to the vacant see were considered as irresistible. The King, however, had already made up his mind on the translation of his own Bishop, and though uncommon exertions were made on behalf of two or three prelates, Dr Barrington carried off the valuable prize, with the full approbation of Mr Pitt and the Chancellor. In 1792, the Bishop delivered a charge at his primary visitation, which, at the request of the clergy, was printed the same year, and soon reached a second edition. From this excellent discourse many valuable passages might be given; but, while our limits prevent expansion, we cannot debar ourselves the pleasure of extracting one or two passages. On the duty of the Christian minister to declare the whole counsel of God, the Bishop says, "Divest Christianity of its faith and doctrines, and you despoil it of all that is peculiar to it in its motives, its consolations, its sanctions, and its duties. You divest it of all that made revelation necessary; you reduce it to the cold and inefficient substance of what is called philosophy; that philosophy which has of late years

shown itself not the friend of religion, learning, and civil order, but of anarchy, conceit, and atheism; you reduce it to the obscure glimmering of human knowledge; that knowledge which the first and greatest of the ancient philosophers confessed to be totally insufficient to satisfy the doubts and solicitude of an inquiring mind; and looked forward with a kind of prophetic exultation, to the period when divine Providence, in compassion to the weakness of our nature, should enlighten mankind by that revelation of himself which modern philosophers reject."

It having been too often observed that the poor and uneducated are incapable of understanding the Christian doctrines, the Bishop set himself vigorously to combat this pestilent error. "I doubt not," says he, "that both the one and the other understand more than we give them credit for, and much more than they can explain. But whatever our doubts of their capacity may be, the injunction is clear and positive, that to them the gospel should be preached; and as to the latter, if one extreme is wrong, the opposite is an error at least as unscriptural, and of as great magnitude as the other. It should be the business of the Christian minister so to combine them in his pastoral instructions as to render the two duties sources of improvement to each other. He should animate the desponding Christian, who confronts the severity of the law with his own imperfections, by those encouraging motives to repentance and amendment, and those sure hopes of salvation, which are presented to him in the covenant of grace; he should endeavour to infuse a life, and energy, and sincerity, into the faith of others, by inculcating those active and indispensable duties demanded by the covenant of works."

In 1797, the Bishop of Durham published another charge to his clergy; and, in 1799, a Sermon preached be-

fore the House of Lords on the Fast-day. In 1801 appeared a third charge, in which he glanced at the French revolution as being caused primarily by the corruptions of the Roman church. He took up the subject again in 1806, when, at the desire of the reverend auditors, he committed his discourse to the press, with the title of "The Grounds on which the Church of England separated from the Church of Rome." Notwithstanding the truly Christian spirit displayed throughout the whole of the charge, it had scarcely emerged from the press, than it was attacked in a strain of unwarrantable scurrility by a Romish priest of Newcastle, who, with a barefaced effrontery, said, "that from one end of his diocese to the other, his Lordship had preached up a holy crusade against the opinions and persons of the Catholics."

After this specimen of the temper of the man, it ought not to excite wonder, that he should have endeavoured to identify atheism with Protestantism; his reason for which is this, that by laying the Bible open to general examination, and by referring to it as the rule of faith, our reformers gave a latitude to scepticism. This virulent piece was not suffered to pass unnoticed, for the same year an answer was given to it by a clergyman of the diocese of Durham, in "A Letter to the Author of Remarks:" who was soon seconded by Mr Faber, Mr Le Mesurier, and some other able divines; to all of whom the sturdy polemic replied, in a "General Vindication of the Remarks on the Charge of the Bishop of Durham;" which was followed up by "A Letter to a Clergyman of that Diocese," in which, among other extravagant assertions, the author had the boldness to say, that "to know that the Pope is antichrist, and the Roman Church is the whore of Babylon, is theology enough for an orthodox churchman."

But the most curious thing in these

virulent tracts was, the attempt to defend the doctrine of transubstantiation, by representing the doctrine of the real presence in the eucharist as exactly equivalent to the union of the two natures in Christ. On this account the Bishop of Durham, though sufficiently reluctant to engage in controversy, yet thought proper to enter the arena, and to publish a luminous piece, which he entitled, "The Grounds on which the Church of England separated from the Church of Rome, reconsidered." The contents of this supplemental performance are, 1. Reasons against the literal sense of the words, "This is my body—this is my blood." 2. Reasons against the miracle implied by the literal sense. 3. Of the adoration of the host. 4. Of the denial of the cup to the laity. 5. An explanation of the antepenultimate answer in the Church Catechism.

After overturning the dogma of transubstantiation, the Bishop concluded his tract by saying, "I do not by any means grudge the Romanists the toleration with which they are by law indulged. I wish them, as our fellow Christians, every degree of toleration, short of political power and establishment; and as a sincere friend to free inquiry, I am not sorry to see them employed in defending, as far as they can, the distinguishing doctrines which separate the churches of England and of Rome. Much good may result from it to the ingenuous and candid of their communion. The religion of Protestants has nothing to fear from it."

Thus, though the Bishop was firm in the defence of that church of which he was an appointed guardian, his zeal was far from inflammatory, nor had he the least tincture of the bigot in his disposition. So far from it, when the French bishops and clergy sought in Protestant England a refuge from the persecution of their own countrymen, they found a liberal benefactor in the Bishop of Durham. He supplied their

wants by his bounty, he admitted the most eminent of them to his table, and he introduced them to his powerful friends. His almoner on this occasion was Mr Charles Butler, the Catholic barrister, who distributed several thousands of pounds from the Bishop's purse among the necessitous emigrants, without any of them having the least knowledge of their benefactor.

In 1811 the Bishop of Durham collected all the sermons, charges, and tracts, which he had published, from time to time, into one large volume; but two years afterwards he went to press again with two Charges, in which, from the alarming encroachments of the Romanists, he thought it expedient to warn his clergy against them.

In 1815, he closed his literary career with a "Sketch of the Political Life of his much-loved brother, William, the second Viscount Barrington;" in the compilation of which work he was materially assisted by his cousin, the late Sir Thomas Bernard. The loss of that true Christian philanthropist, in 1818, was severely felt by the good prelate, who had for many years experienced his value as a sincere friend and confidential adviser. In conjunction with Sir Thomas, the Bishop established the Society for Bettering the Condition of the Poor; besides other charitable institutions, particularly that for the support and education of blind children in St George's Fields, and the Fever Hospital in Gray's Inn Lane. In 1809 the Bishop of Durham was involved in a lawsuit respecting the rents of some lead mines belonging to the see, the leases of which had expired for several years, without being renewed. On a discovery of the fact, a bill was filed in Chancery to recover the arrears; and the cause, on being sent down to the Court of King's Bench, was determined in favour of the Bishop, who recovered thereby near £60,000; not a farthing of which went into his own pocket, for

he appropriated the whole to the establishment of schools in the diocese, and the formation of a fund for the benefit of poor clergymen and their families.

In his episcopal character he was a strict observer of discipline, and uncommonly scrupulous with respect to ordination. He did not trust to the mere ordinary forms of recommendation, but examined the candidates himself, particularly in sacred literature. When a student evinced more than common diligence, especially in the languages of the Old and New Testament, his Lordship never failed to show his approbation by some mark of attention; and for the encouragement of Hebrew learning he gave regular rewards. As a patron, he was equally liberal and judicious. He made it his constant business, from the time of his consecration to the last day of his long and useful life, to seek out such worthy and able men as were best entitled to preferment.

His earliest chaplain was Dr Owen; the second was Dr Blayney, to whom he gave the living of Polshot in Wiltshire; and the third was Dr Burgess, now Bishop of Salisbury. Besides these eminent divines, the late prelate bestowed upon Dr Paley, without having had any personal acquaintance with him, the living of Bishop Wearmouth; in gratitude for which, that able writer made a return the most acceptable that could be, in the publication of his "Natural Theology," which he dedicated to the Bishop.

The late Mr Carlyle, so well known by his travels in the East, and his knowledge of the Oriental languages, received from the Bishop of Durham, in the same liberal manner, the presentation to the valuable vicarage of Newcastle. Dr Holmes, in undertaking the collated edition of the Greek Bible, met with a generous friend in the Bishop of Durham, who contributed very largely to that work, which the learned edi-

tor amply acknowledged in the reports of his progress. Dr Andrew Bell, to whom the world is so much indebted for the introduction and improvement of the Madras system of education, obtained from the Bishop of Durham that valuable piece of preferment, the mastership of Shirburn Hospital. Mr Faber, the author of some esteemed works on the Prophecies, and other subjects, was presented to the living of Stockton on Tees. Dr Grey, so well known by his "Key to the Old Testament," and "Bampton Lectures," was made prebendary of Durham, and, on the death of Dr Paley, preferred to the living of Wearmouth. To these many more names might be added, by way of showing the readiness of the late Bishop of Durham to act upon the principle so well expressed by the Lord Chancellor Thurlow, that they who support and adorn the church, should be rewarded in such a manner as may serve to stimulate others to follow their example.

Bishop Barrington had, as may naturally be supposed, many occasions for the trial of his virtue, in regard to the disposal of the benefices and dignities which were in his gift. In no one instance, however, has it ever been proved that he exercised his power as a patron improperly. Instances could be adduced of his resisting the importunities of friends whom he loved, when urged in behalf of persons of whose qualifications he had reasonable doubts. One circumstance, which we remember to have heard many years ago, merits insertion in this place. A relation of Mrs Barrington, having experienced some difficulties in life, applied to the Bishop for orders, thinking that thereby he should secure a handsome provision. His Lordship was too conscientious to encourage what he could not but disapprove: and well knowing the motive by which his kinsman was actuated, asked him what preferment would satisfy him. The applicant

frankly answered, that five hundred a-year would abundantly meet all his wants. "You shall have it," said the Bishop, "but not out of the patrimony of the church. I will not take away the bread from those who have earned it by their labours, to bestow it upon a relation. You shall have the income you have mentioned, yearly, out of my own pocket."

Next to the faithful discharge of his sacred trust as a bishop, may be mentioned his extensive beneficence. There was hardly a charitable institution in the metropolis to which he was not a regular and liberal subscriber; nor did he forget them at his death, as appears by his last will. His bounty, no more than his friendship, was confined to particular persuasions or connexions; for at his table might be occasionally seen Roman Catholic priests, dissenting ministers, and Quakers. His house was always open to respectable persons; and as he was constantly accessible and affable to those who visited him, so he was a most punctual correspondent, and never failed to acknowledge and answer the letters which he received. He was fond of entertaining foreigners of distinction, and on such occasions made it a fixed rule to consult their particular customs and inclinations.

About twenty years ago, Mirza Abu Taleb, a Persian Prince, came to England on a political mission; and when he returned home, he wrote an account of his travels, of which work a translation was printed at Calcutta. It is a very curious performance, and contains many remarkable anecdotes of distinguished public characters visited by the author while in this country. Among others, he says, "I also had the honour of being known to the Lord Bishop of Durham, who was a man of great liberality and extensive charity. He frequently invited me to his house, and marked his attention by always asking some of the gentlemen who understood

Persian, to meet me. During the year of great scarcity (1801) in England, he daily fed a thousand poor people, at his private expense. Hence may be formed some idea of the incomes and charity of the English bishops."

It has been well observed of this excellent prelate, that, large as were his acts of public munificence, they bore but a small proportion to the deeds of private unobtrusive charity, which were the daily occupation of his life.

Innumerable are the objects who were blessed by his bounty, and whose tears are now flowing in vain regret for the benefactor whom they have lost. His bounties indeed were of no common kind; they were dispensed on suitable occasions, and with a liberality which not even his ample means would have enabled him to indulge, had it not been sustained by a strict economy. We are told on good authority, that one hundred thousand pounds would not exceed the amount of his benefactions; and it has been stated, that he sent no less than six hundred and seventy-four begging letters to the Mendicity Society in the last year. Nor should it be forgotten, that the Bishop of Durham was, to the last hour of his protracted life, incessantly watching for occasions to do good. Whenever he perceived any case that called for immediate aid, he did not wait the formality of an application, or institute a train of tedious inquiry; but having satisfied himself as to the general necessity of the concern, he promptly extended his benevolent hand, without grudging or ostentation, to its support. Of this a recent instance may be here mentioned. When Mr Gilly published his highly interesting "Narrative of an Excursion to the Mountains of Piedmont," in which he has so powerfully brought before the Christian world the history and circumstances of the ancient Church of the Valleys; the good Prelate, as soon as he had read the book,

sent a letter to the author, with whom he was, we believe, before unacquainted, desiring him to point out the best means of rendering a donation beneficial to the poor Vaudois, and to become his Lordship's almoner. This was done, and so pleased was the venerable Bishop with the work, that he took the author under his patronage, by appointing Mr Gilly his domestic chaplain, and presenting him to a valuable prebend in his cathedral, which was the last preferment he lived to bestow.

Though in the latter part of his life he secluded himself very much from company, he was in the habit of receiving a few chosen friends at his hospitable table, when his discourse was always pleasant, and of a religious cast. The town-house of the Bishop was in Cavendish Square, where he regularly lived from Christmas to the middle of May, when he made it a rule to retire for the summer to Mongewell, near Wallingford, which seat he greatly ornamented. At this place he some years ago caused to be erected, under a group of lofty elms, a beautiful marble urn, with the following affectionate inscription:—

“ To the Memory of
My two highly-valued Friends,
THOMAS TYRWHYTT, Esq.
and

The Rev. C. M. CRACHERODE, M.A.

In this once favour'd walk, beneath these
elms,

Whose thicken'd foliage, to the solar ray
Impervious, sheds a venerable gloom,
Oft in instructive converse we beguiled
The fervid time, which each returning year
To friendship's call devoted. Such things
were;

But are, alas! no more.

S. DUNELM.”

During the last year he spent several months at Worthing, in Sussex, where he resided in the mansion which had been for a short time occupied by the lamented Princess Charlotte of Wales.

Here, though on the margin of the sea, he had the enjoyment of a garden, sheltered by trees and shrubs of luxuriant growth, of which he was always very fond.

Frequently he rode out in an open carriage, paying morning visits to the neighbouring clergy and gentry; nor did he ever omit a regular attendance on the morning and afternoon service at the parish church, where his chaplain Mr Townshend often officiated. The Bishop was so pleased with Worthing, that he made a purchase of the house which he occupied, and settled it on a young lady who had been brought up from infancy, and adopted, by Mrs Barrington.

In his person the Bishop was tall and upright; his features were very prepossessing, and his manner was equally engaging. In his youth he was considered as tending to a decline, and actually underwent an operation for the stone at an early age; notwithstanding which, by temperance and exercise, he attained the great age of ninety-two, with very little sickness. On the Sunday preceding his dissolution, he read the appointed lessons to his assembled household, and feelingly told them that it was for the last time. In his letters to Lord Teignmouth, apologizing for his non-attendance at the general meeting of the Bible Society, to which, from the beginning, he was always a fast friend, he signified that this would be his last communication. His decease was very tranquil, and almost imperceptible to his attendants, on the morning of the 25th March, 1826; by which circumstance the emoluments of one half-year's revenue accrued to his executors.

The funeral of the Bishop, pursuant to his own injunction, was conducted in the most private manner; his remains being deposited near those of his second lady, in the vault of Mongewell church.

SIR THOMAS STAMFORD RAFFLES,
KNT.,

Fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies of London; President of the Zoological Society, and of the Asiatic Society of London; a Vice President of the African Institution; also of the Language Institution; Member of the Asiatic Society of Calcutta, and of the Literary Society of Bombay; and President of the Literary and Scientific Society of Java.

Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles was born on board the ship *Anne*, at sea, off the harbour of port Morant, in the island of Jamaica, on the 6th of July, 1781. His father, Benjamin Raffles, was one of the oldest captains in the West India trade, from the port of London. Sir Stamford received his education principally under Dr Anderson, who presided over a respectable academy at Hammersmith.

At an early age this gentleman entered the service of the East India Company, as a clerk in the secretary's office on their home establishment; in which situation his talents and his industry obtained for him the esteem and confidence of the then Secretary, William Ramsay, Esq., a relation of whom Mr Raffles married. In the year 1805, when Pulo Penang, an island in the Straits of Malacca, having been ceded to the Company, was formed into a Government, with a civil and military establishment, and designated Prince of Wales' Island, the interest of Mr Ramsay procured for Mr Raffles from the Court of Directors, the handsome and flattering appointment of Assistant Secretary to this Government, together with the rank of junior merchant, and an eventual succession to council; and he accordingly proceeded with Governor Dundas and the rest of the civil establishment to the place of their destination.

On his arrival in India, Mr Raffles applied himself to the study of the Malay language, which is the vernacular dialect of almost all the Eastern islands. Such was the success with which he cultivated the study of these languages, that he was appointed Malay translator to the Government: and Lord Minto, then Governor-General of India, honoured him with especial notice in one of his anniversary discourses to the College of Calcutta. Having recommended himself to the favourable opinion and distinguished regard of the Governor and Council of Prince of Wales' Island, they, in March 1807, appointed him their Secretary; uniting with the duties of this office those of Registrar to their Recorder's Court.

Mr Raffles's taste and intellectual habits led him to connect with his official engagements scientific and literary pursuits, and the intense application of his mind to these, in a debilitating atmosphere, soon induced severe indisposition, such as compelled him, early in the year 1808, to retire to Malacca. When his health was a little re-established, he applied himself to the investigation of the history, resources, and localities of that place, communicating the result of his inquiries to the Government of Prince of Wales' Island; and it is generally allowed, that by a timely representation of some circumstances, till then unknown or not duly considered, he prevented the alienation of Malacca from the British crown.

In 1810 the fame of his talents and character had reached Calcutta, where it obtained for him the appointment of agent of the Governor General with the Malay States.

In the same year the annexation of Holland to France having virtually placed at the disposal of the latter power the valuable and extensive possessions of the Dutch in the Eastern seas, it was deemed expedient that the large is-

land of Java should, without delay, be brought under the dominion of Great Britain. For this purpose Lord Minto, the Governor General of India, caused an armament to be fitted out in the ports of India, and proceeded with the expedition in person. Mr Raffles, who had been consulted in its very earliest stage, accompanied his Lordship in the capacity of private secretary, and his agent in the Malay States.

The conquest of Batavia, and ultimately of Java, an island containing a population of six millions of souls, and divided into thirty residences, under powerful chiefs, appears to have been effected with unparalleled ease and expedition. So sensible was Lord Minto of the valuable assistance which his Lordship had received from Mr Raffles, both in the preliminary arrangements of this expedition, and in the ultimate execution of the enterprise, that he nominated that gentleman to the high and important station of Lieutenant Governor of Java, "as an acknowledgment of those services, and in consideration of his peculiar fitness for that office."

Mr Raffles took charge of this government on the 11th September 1811, and held it till the 15th March 1816.

The commencement of his official career as Lieutenant Governor of Java, was disturbed by unavoidable hostilities with the treacherous Chief of Palembang, and the Sultan of Djocjocarta. These powers were speedily suppressed, and having brought the war with them to a successful termination, he investigated the internal resources of the island, and carefully examined into the character and dispositions of its inhabitants, with a view equally to the advancement of his country's interests, and to the moral improvement of the colonists. He soon discovered that a renovation of the whole economy of the government would be necessary in the

prosecution of his benevolent designs. He did not, however, on that account abandon the undertaking, but as a preliminary step he compiled, with the assistance of some able artists, a statistical survey and map of Java, which were published in one volume, quarto, in 1815.

Having formed some considerable acquaintance with the people who were intrusted to his care, he commenced a revision of the judicial system of the colony. This undertaking afforded much scope for the exercise of his active and enlightened genius, and was pursued with considerable success. So early as the year 1814 he had matured, and he then made public, a clear and simple code of laws or regulations for the general administration of justice among the Javanese, whereby he effected several essential reforms, as well in the European courts of justice, as in the magistracy established at Batavia, Samarang, and Sourabaya. He fully succeeded in revising and modifying the practice of the former courts on the mild and just principles of the British constitution; and finally introduced into the colony that palladium of English liberty, the trial by jury.

Among the several laws and regulations which were established during the government of Mr Raffles in Java, the act of the British Parliament, declaring the slave trade to be a felony, was made a colonial law.

A general registry of slaves was also introduced, and other measures adopted, with the concurrence of the principal inhabitants, which contemplated the final extinction of slavery on the island: and when called upon to resign the government, foreseeing that this object would be for a time defeated, by the restoration of the colony to the King of the Netherlands, and in the hope of interesting his successors in its final accomplishment, he established a volun-

tary society of persons friendly to the measure, which he designated the "Java Benevolent Society."

With a view to the revenue and commercial administration of Java, he first explored, with almost unequalled diligence and sagacity, the natural resources of the island, and then encouraged the greatest freedom of commercial intercourse between that colony and all foreign states. He formed three dependent residencies; one on each of the islands of Borneo and Banca, and one in Japan. This was done with a view to promote a traffic in the valuable minerals which are the staple articles of those settlements; the great importance of which he first ascertained by employing able mineralogists to examine and report upon them, and then encouraged the resort of Chinese labourers to work the mines.

The Literary and Scientific Society of Java also owes its existence to Mr Raffles, who presided over it from its institution till he quitted the colony.

In his official communications, Mr Raffles appears to have been frank and undisguised. While he held the situation of Lieutenant Governor of Java, he avowed that his object in all his measures was, in connexion with commercial advantage to his country, to effect a change in the habits of life, and to improve the moral character and condition of the piratical inhabitants of the Eastern Islands. The candid avowal of these views obtained for him the approval and commendation even of those who questioned the policy of his proceedings. It was acknowledged, that to extend the blessings of civilization and regular government to a people whose moral and political condition was so little advanced as that of the inhabitants of the Eastern Islands, was an object worthy of the contemplation of the most enlightened statesman.

During Mr Raffles's residence in Java, Mrs Raffles died. His health ha-

ving materially suffered from the combined influence of domestic affliction, and the severe duties of his station, he determined to visit England; and in March 1816, resigned the government of Java to Mr Fendall, of the Bengal civil service. Mr Raffles arrived at Falmouth, in the Autumn of 1816, bringing with him the Râden Ranar Dipura, a Javanese Prince, with his suite; and a more splendid and extensive collection of specimens of the productions, costume, &c. of the Eastern archipelago, than had ever before been received in a British port. The reception which he met in England must have been highly gratifying to him. He had the pleasure to see that his services were there appreciated by the public, while, from persons of all ranks and classes of society, he received the most flattering marks of kind and respectful attention.

During his stay in this quarter of the globe, notwithstanding the numerous engagements by which he was oppressed, he found leisure to accomplish a tour on the Continent, the details of which have been given to the public by one of the party.

Early in the year 1817, Mr Raffles gave to the world his "History of Java," in two large quarto volumes, with plates. This work abounds with information of the most interesting character, and is in every respect highly creditable to its author.

While in England, Mr Raffles made a second matrimonial connexion with a most amiable lady (now his widow), Sophia, the daughter of J. Watson Hull, Esq. late of Great Baddow, in Essex. Of four children, the fruits of his two unions, he had the misfortune to lose three, during his residence at Sumatra, who, together with many of his personal friends, fell victims to the climate.

As an acknowledgment of his services, and as the best appointment, after the resignation of Java, at their com-

mand, the East India Company confirmed his nomination to the Residency of Bencoolen, in Sumatra, which had been held in reserve for him, in the anticipation that such an event might possibly occur. With this appointment, the rank and title of Lieutenant Governor of Fort Marlborough was conferred upon him. He also received the honour of knighthood from his Majesty, then Prince Regent, who graciously permitted the dedication of the History of Java to himself.

Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles left the shores of England for his new station, in November 1817, having been detained at Falmouth by contrary winds long enough to receive the melancholy intelligence of the death of the lamented Princess Charlotte, whose friendship, together with that of her illustrious consort, he had the distinguished gratification to enjoy; and his first public act, on his arrival in his new government, was the forwarding of an address of condolence to his Majesty, on that most mournful event.

On the 22d of March 1818, Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles arrived at Bencoolen, and took charge of his government. It is well known that this Residency was one of the East India Company's earliest possessions, and having been formed on the bad principles which prevailed at the time when the Company first took possession of it, was for more than a century cursed with all the abominations which attend the system of colonial slavery. Its population during that period consisted of a few demoralized Europeans, a small number of half-domesticated Malays, and a considerable body of native African slaves called Caffres, whose wasting numbers were from time to time recruited by the importation of fresh victims, obtained at an enormous expense. Of the latter description of persons, the Company possessed a considerable establishment, and all the

other Europeans resident in the settlement were of course accustomed to the anomalous luxury of slave service, and property in human flesh.

The whole history of this settlement, if correctly written, would give an instructive view of the misery, folly, and commercial disappointment which are the concomitants of this system. It is beyond all question, that for many years Bencoolen afforded to its possessors no commercial advantage; on the contrary, by a reference to the annual Parliamentary statements of the East India Company's affairs, it will appear, that for the forty years last past it entailed upon them an annual loss, amounting frequently to more than one hundred thousand pounds.

When Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles first took charge of this government, he found the settlement in the utmost poverty and wretchedness; for religious worship, or for the administration of justice, scarcely any provision existing, and education almost totally disregarded: on the other hand, gaming and cock-fighting, not only permitted, but publicly patronised by the government. There was, in fact, security, neither for person nor for property, to be found. Murders were daily committed, and robberies perpetrated, which were never traced, nor indeed attempted to be traced; and profligacy and immorality obtruded themselves everywhere. In addition to these disgusting features, the oppression and debauchery which naturally spring from the system of slavery, and are peculiar to it, filled up the frightful picture of misrule which this new connexion presented to its Lieutenant Governor on his arrival.

Entering on his career of public duty at Bencoolen under such inauspicious circumstances, he nevertheless formed with coolness, and pursued with steadiness and perseverance, his plans of reform. He appears to have given his earliest attention to the subject of for-

ced service and slavery. Of the former, he traced the history with great accuracy: the Malay law stipulated, it appeared, that after the decease of a debtor, his children, in the first instance, and, after their death, the village to which he belonged, should be still liable for the debt. Thus not only the original contractors were rendered slave debtors, as they are termed, but their offspring, and eventually the people in general, were reduced to the same hapless state. Under the plea of recovering debts, and considering the people as debtors, they were compelled to work; and as the colony, in fact, contained no equitable court for the impartial adjudication of all the numberless questions which must constantly arise between debtor and creditor, the system in its operation became one of lawless violence and oppression on the one hand, and of constantly recurring, though but too frequently hopeless, resistance on the other.

Of African slaves, or Caffres, the property of government, there were, when Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles arrived, (men, women, and children,) upwards of two hundred; being mostly the children of slaves originally purchased by the East India Company; that mode of keeping up or augmenting their numbers having of course been discontinued, in obedience to the act of the British Legislature which abolished the slave trade.

There were not wanting persons in Bencoolen as in England, who eulogised the slave system as the perfection of human policy, and asserted that the Company's Caffres were happier than free men. Such were not the views of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, who, fully convinced of the contrary, caused the whole of the Company's slaves to be brought before the first Assembly of the native Chiefs of Sumatra that took place after his arrival, and after explaining to them the principles and

views of the British government, with regard to the abolition of slavery generally, he gave to each of the slaves a certificate of freedom. To the old and infirm, small stipends were also allotted for subsistence during the remainder of their lives. This measure made a considerable impression at the time, and promised to be followed by the most favourable results. Indeed, Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles continued long enough at Bencoolen to enjoy the satisfaction of passing a regulation with the entire concurrence of the native chiefs, by which slavery was eventually abolished, and the laws regarding debtors so modified as to render them consistent with the principles of the British government.

Many other important reforms were effected by this gentleman during his residence at Bencoolen, of which the following call for particular notice.

The revenues arising to the government from the gaming and cock-fighting farms were relinquished, and these vicious sports prohibited.

The property in the soil was recognised, and the relation between the chiefs of districts and the cultivating classes adjusted. For a forced cultivation of the soil was substituted a free cultivation; the consequence of which was a considerable extension of agriculture, and a rapid and successful progress in the cultivation of coffee, sugar, pepper, and rice. Particular encouragement was given to the cultivation of grain, with a view of rendering the settlement independent of foreign supplies. To the enlightened mind of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles nothing appeared more absurd, than to allow, the inhabitants of an isolated colony like Fort Marlborough needlessly to depend for their daily supply of food upon all the contingencies which attend importation from distant countries.

The police of Bencoolen, than which

scarcely anything could be more defective when he took the charge of the government, underwent several important modifications and improvements. In the absence of any adequate judicial authority, empowering him to act under the sanction of the King and British Parliament, he obtained from the chiefs of the country a provisional treaty, which authorized him, on behalf of the Company, to administer the country according to equity, justice, and good policy. Under the sanction of this treaty, he presided in a local institution called the Pangerang's Court, and with the assistance of the chiefs, disposed of all questions respecting property or police which were brought before him. By these measures, confidence between the European settlers and natives was restored, so as to render it practicable for him to repeal an old regulation, which prohibited the inhabitants from wearing their crosses and other weapons within the town of Marlborough.

The Lieutenant Governor also dismissed the mounted body guard, which had been in attendance on the chief authority, and reduced the military sentinels. "Thus," he observes, in a letter to a friend, "by showing the confidence I personally placed in the inhabitants, I seemed to raise them in their own estimation, and in some degree to relieve them from the listlessness in which I found them. And now that the gaming and cock-fighting farms are discontinued, and an idea is gone abroad that every one may reap the fruits of his own industry, I have reason to hope the day is not far distant, when I may be able to place the Malayan character in a different light from that in which it has been for many years viewed."

The last to be here noticed, but certainly not the least important measure of his administration in Sumatra, was the establishment of native schools at

Bencoolen, and the steps taken by him to ensure their establishment throughout the country in every direction. He had long been known as the uncompromising friend of universal education. In the year 1819 he entered largely into the discussion of the subject, in an excellent but yet unpublished memoir, which he submitted, through the superior authorities in India, to the Court of Directors in England.

While Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles held this government, (favourable as peace was to the chief object of his ambition, the moral improvement of the colonists,) he had not the felicity of enjoying it altogether without interruption. Some proceedings of the Dutch Commissioners, in connexion with the Sultan of Palembang, drew from him a spirited remonstrance against measures which he considered to be of the nature of encroachments on the rights or possessions of his country. This discussion involved him for a considerable time in an anxious and laborious correspondence, in which he asserted, with manly firmness and dignity, the fair pretensions of Great Britain.

With a view to the extension of the British interests and the honour of the British name in the Eastern seas, while he held this government, he also projected and executed two measures unconnected with its details, which it will be proper here to notice.

The first of these measures was the conclusion of a treaty, or treaties, with the chiefs of a small island, situated off the south coast of Sumatra, called Pulo Neas. This treaty was a measure rather of benevolence than of policy. The inhabitants of the island, who rank among the most beautiful and well-formed specimens of the human family, have, from that very circumstance, excited the cupidity of almost all the Mahomedan chiefs in the neighbourhood, who, it is believed, have been long in the practice of trading to this island for

slaves, and the most shocking scenes of plunder and rapine have been the necessary consequence. So extensive has been the traffic in the ill-starred inhabitants of Pulo Neas, that Neas slaves are well known all over the East, and highly prized for their superior comeliness and artless manners, which qualities have everywhere obtained for them the highest price. It was chiefly for the purpose of putting an end to this hateful traffic, in connexion with some not very great commercial advantages which it was thought would result from the arrangement, that Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles took the island under British protection by a treaty, which was never confirmed.

The other measure just referred to was the establishment of a British settlement on the island of Singapore, situated at the southern extremity of the Malayan peninsula. While this measure was under discussion, some diversity of opinion existed as to its expediency, but respecting which the superior discernment of Sir T. S. Raffles left no doubt upon his mind. He therefore, early in the year 1819, charged himself with the responsibility of proceeding in person direct from Prince of Wales' Island, whither he had been to consult with its governor, and in the course of not more than ten days from his quitting Penang, viz. on the 29th of February 1819, succeeded in hoisting the British flag upon Singapore, which he declared a free port.

The best commendation of this enterprise is its surprising success, which more than realized even the sanguine expectations of its projector. Experience has proved that, Singapore is peculiarly eligibly situated with relation to the whole Eastern archipelago, to China, and to India; for an extended commerce, if held as a free port under British protection.

Its population, previously to its occupation for this purpose, did not amount

to more than two hundred souls; but, in less than two years from that date, it exceeded ten thousand. During this period (two years), not less than two thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine vessels are stated to have entered the port, of which three hundred and eighty-three were owned and commanded by Europeans, and two thousand five hundred and six by natives. Their united tonnage exceeded two hundred thousand tons. The value of its commerce in the first two years was estimated at five millions of dollars. In the year 1822 it had augmented to eight millions five hundred and sixty-eight thousand one hundred and seventy-one dollars; and in 1823, to thirteen millions two hundred and sixty-eight thousand three hundred and ninety-seven dollars. The natives of the neighbouring states resorted to it in abundance with goods or bullion, and many of them have erected houses and large warehouses on the island.

For the government of this settlement, a few simple but highly important regulations were framed; and for the immediate preservation of order, and protection of persons and property, a local magistracy was instituted by Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles; the magistrates to act under the Resident, who was the representative of the British government upon the island. They were selected from such British inhabitants as were of the greatest influence and respectability in the settlement, whose names were enrolled for that purpose. They held the Resident's commission, taking it in turns to act as sitting magistrate; and once in a quarter, or oftener, as occasion might require, to hold a meeting of the nature of quarter sessions, for the hearing and deciding of cases which might exceed the authority of a single magistrate, and doing all such things as are usually done at quarter sessions in England, as far as the object and nature of that institu-

tion could be considered applicable to the circumstances of the settlement.

For the adjustment of small debts, the magistrates were empowered to decide in a summary manner within a limited amount: and the assistant to the Resident was authorized to perform the duties of a Notary Public.

It being expedient that an authority should exist for the enactment, from time to time, of such local laws and regulations as the circumstances of the settlement might require, the Resident was empowered to pass such regulations, by and with the advice of the magistrates, subject to the confirmation of the Governor General, in Council, of Bengal, and "provided always, that such laws and regulations are of a local nature, and in no way inconsistent with or repugnant to any known British law or usage."

In legislating for this settlement, the slave trade and slavery were expressly prohibited. No individual could be imported for sale, transferred, or sold as a slave, after the establishment of the settlement; or, having his or her fixed residence in the island, can now "be considered or treated as a slave, under any denomination, condition, colour, or pretence whatever." The usages respecting bond debtors were, of course, materially modified; and a continued residence of twelve months at Singapore was declared to constitute a fixed residence, and to entitle the party to all the benefits of the British constitution. The government of this settlement is now in the hands of a resident counselor, and is conducted in the same manner as those of Prince of Wales' Island, and Malacca, under the authority of the East India Company.

A list of individuals who have expressed favourable opinions of the Singapore establishment, would include the names of Craufurd, Mitchell, Fairlie, Gladstone, Grant, and several others. "The island of Singapore," says Mr

Gladstone, "at present in our possession, is considered extremely eligible as a medium of intercourse and exchange of commodities with those nations lying to the eastward of the Straits of Malacca." "With respect to what are called the Oriental Islands," says Mr Mitchell, "I certainly am of opinion that a very considerable trade might be created if those assistances were given which are now wanting; I mean ports, where our ships could land their outward cargoes, and purchase their homeward cargoes, with safety; such, for instance, as the island of Singapore, in the eastern entrance of the Straits of Malacca." Messrs Craufurd, Fairlie, and others, expressed themselves to the same effect. The late Mr Charles Grant, in particular, whose competency of judgment few persons will be disposed to question, remarked that he had turned his thoughts to Singapore; that he had considered the position and the occupation of the place to be very important to the British interests; that he wished it might be found consistent with the rights of the two nations, that Great Britain might keep possession of it. He thought it remarkably well situated to be a considerable emporium in the Eastern seas. He had no doubt that it would soon rise (as in fact it has risen) to great magnitude and importance. He remembered well being struck with how much had been done in a short time, both as to the resort of people as settlers, and of shipping for trade, remembering that it was quite an unoccupied spot when taken possession of.

"If," Mr Grant adds, with reference to the distinguished subject of this memoir, "I may be permitted to allude to the conduct of any individual, I must say that I think the whole proceedings of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles have been marked with great intelligence, and great zeal for the interests of his country."

Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles made

his last visit to Singapore in the year 1823. He then founded there an institution designed to consist of a college, with library and museum, for the study of Anglo-Chinese literature, and of branch schools in the Chinese and Malayan languages. With this college it was his original wish to have incorporated a similar institution previously formed by Drs Milne and Morrison at Malacca; but that part of the design was abandoned. Towards the establishment of the Singapore College, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars was raised by voluntary contribution; an advantageous allotment of land near the town has also been appropriated for its use, and each of the departments endowed with an assignment of five hundred acres of uncleared ground on the usual terms. To these grants the founder of the institution had the satisfaction of adding an annual endowment on the part of the Company, whose authority he represented, and before he quitted the island, of laying the first stone of the projected edifice.

Very early in the year 1824, the impaired state of his constitution determined Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles to relinquish the government of Fort Marlborough, and return to his native country. For this purpose he chartered the country ship *Fame*, and on the 2d of February embarked in that ship, with a considerable property in valuables; but his intended voyage was interrupted for a time by a most calamitous event, the destruction of the ship and cargo by fire. Shortly after eight o'clock in the evening of the day of his embarkation, when he and his family had retired to rest, the alarm of fire was given in the fore part of the ship. No sooner had he discovered this to be the fact, than every exertion was made, under his direction and that of the captain, to save the ship and cargo; soon, however, it became evident that the flames had

gained a height which defied all attempts to extinguish them, and that no alternative remained but, in the last extremity, for those on board to take to the boats. By means of these, Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, his family, and the commander and crew of the *Fame*, were enabled to preserve their lives; and early the next morning, after having spent a night of the most distressing anxiety on the ocean, they reached the shores of Sumatra in safety, at a distance of about fifteen miles from Bencoolen.

In a letter to a friend in England, describing this calamity, Sir Stamford Raffles observed:—“The property which I have lost, on the most moderate estimate, cannot be less than L.20,000; I might almost say L.30,000. But the loss which I have to regret beyond all, is my papers and drawings; all my papers of every description, including my notes and observations, with memoirs and collections, sufficient for a full and ample history, not only of Sumatra, but of Borneo, and every other island in these seas; my intended account of the establishment of Singapore; the history of my own administration; grammars, dictionaries, and vocabularies; and last, not least, a grand map of Sumatra, on which I had been employed since my first arrival here, and on which, for the last six months, I had bestowed almost my whole undivided attention:—this, however, was not all,—all my collections in natural history, and my splendid collection of drawings, upwards of a thousand in number, with all the valuable papers and notes of my friends Arnold and Jack; and, to conclude, I will merely notice, that there was scarce an unknown animal, bird, beast, or fish, or an interesting plant, which we had not on board. A living tapir, a new species of tiger, splendid pheasants, &c. &c. all *domesticated* for the voyage. We were, in short, in this

respect a Noah's ark. All—all—has perished; but thank God, our lives have been spared, and we do not repine.

"Our plan is to get another ship as soon as possible, and I think you may still expect us in July."

After his return to Fort Marlborough, Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles did not resume the functions of government. He remained there till April, when he finally embarked for England in the ship *Mariner*, and arrived in London in the month of August 1824.

While walking in St James's Street, within a few months after his return to England, he had a slight attack of apoplexy, the effect of which made an evident impression on his constitution.

Having purchased some property at Highwood, in the neighbourhood of Hendon, Middlesex, Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles principally lived there in a very retired manner, in the bosom of his family. On the day preceding his death, with the exception of a bilious attack under which he had laboured for some days, there was nothing in his appearance to create the least apprehension that the fatal hour was so near. On the evening of that day he retired to rest between ten and eleven o'clock, his usual hour when in the country. On the following morning at five o'clock, it being discovered that he had left his room before the time at which he generally got up, six o'clock, Lady Raffles immediately rose, and found him lying at the bottom of a flight of stairs, in a state of complete insensibility. Medical aid was promptly procured, and every means resorted to, to restore animation, but the vital spark had fled. The body was opened, under the direction of Sir Everard Home, the same day, who pronounced his death to have been caused by an apoplectic attack beyond the control of all human power. It was likewise apparent, that the sufferings of the deceased must for some time past have been most intense. His constitution

had suffered much during his long residence in India, and in the anxious and zealous discharge of the important duties which devolved upon him there.

Of a character possessing so much interest as the distinguished individual of whose public life the foregoing is a brief narrative, it would be desirable to exhibit a full-length portrait; but of this neither time nor space will admit. It must suffice cursorily to observe, that his literary qualifications were highly respectable; that his style was elegant, his application to study intense, and his habits of research laborious. He also appears to have been a man of unquestionable benevolence, and to have been influenced by an enlightened policy. This he evinced by avowing and acting upon the opinion, that the relation between colonies and those which are in common parlance called their parent states, implies more than mere exaction by the latter, and obedience from the former. He considered it to be the first duty of governors to cultivate and improve, as well as to defend, the people who were subjected to their authority; and in the governments which he administered, he endeavoured, not unsuccessfully, to fulfil this first duty. Possessed of a comprehensive mind in whatever situation he was placed, he meditated great objects; some of which it was his good fortune to realize. He examined the Malay character, that he might improve it; and he essayed nothing less than its complete reformation, by the abrogation of some of the worst principles and practices which can deform society, and by the introduction of means of moral advancement, till then almost unknown, or long neglected, in that interesting part of the globe. The practices and principles which he sought to extirpate, were cruelty, tyranny, fraud, and ignorance; those which it appears to have been his wish to introduce were knowledge and justice, by the efficient administration

of equal laws, the recognition of personal and relative rights, the total abolition of bond service and slavery, and by education.

The name of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles will live in British history, not among warriors, but among the benefactors of mankind, as a philanthropist and statesman of the very first eminence. Time alone can ascertain the extent of the debt which the nation owes to his memory and to his family: but it will be by all acknowledged, that to the public he was a valuable servant, and, in connexion with the British possessions in the East, a most powerful agent. There can be no doubt that the great designs which he formed, and the measures he pursued, if followed up as a part of her colonial policy, will exalt the character of Great Britain far more than her proudest victories have ever done.

Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles had the honour of a share in the esteem of his Majesty; and he enjoyed the personal friendship of not a few individuals of eminence, both in Europe and in Asia; some of whom were of exalted rank, and others of high literary character; the latter description includes Dr Morrison, the author of the Chinese Grammar and Dictionary; Sir George Staunton, the author of the Embassy to China; Dr Wilkins, the East India Company's Librarian; and almost every other Orientalist of celebrity.

Of the excellence of Sir Thomas Raffles's private character, and of the virtues of his heart, it is impossible to speak too strongly. There never was a man more deservedly endeared to his family and friends, or more deeply lamented by them.

His own publications were, "The History of Java," already mentioned, which appeared in 1817, in two vols. 4to; and "Finlayson's Mission to Siam, with Memoirs of the Author, by Sir T. S. Raffles," 1822, one vol. 8vo. Some

time after his return to England, he edited "The Malay Annals" of the late Dr Leyden; to which he prefixed an introduction. He is also known to have left some literary projects unexecuted, particularly a memoir of Singapore in manuscript.

THE REVEREND JOHN MILNER, D.D. F.S.A.,

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF
CASTABALA, and VICAR APOSTOLIC
OF THE MIDLAND DISTRICT OF
ENGLAND.

THIS distinguished scholar and divine was born in the year 1752. His real name was Miller. In a baptismal registry in the custody of the Vicar Apostolic of the London District, is the following entry of his baptism:—

"Anno Dni. 1752, die 14 Octob.
"Baptizatus fuit Johannes Miller, filius Josephi et Helenæ Miller, conjugum. Patrini fuerunt Jacobus Brown et Anna Marsland.
"A me Gul. Errington, Miss. Aplico."

His parents were respectable people in trade. Having received the first rudiments of education in the Catholic Schools of Sedgely Park, near Wolverhampton, and Edgbaston, near Birmingham, he was sent to the English College at Douay; and probably, on going abroad, instead of his patronymic of Miller, assumed the name of Milner. At Douay that intrepidity of character for which he was afterwards so remarkable burst forth; but his brilliant talents were not yet displayed; he did not teach in the schools; nor did he ever defend publicly there any part of his philosophy or divinity.

Having completed his studies at Douay, he was in the year 1777 ordained Priest; and soon after, was sent on the mission in England, and placed in London. His love of sacred science and literature must then have manifested itself, for the library belonging to the Chapter and Clergy of the London

District was committed to his care. But more active duties were required from him. A malignant fever, raging at Winchester among the French prisoners, had deprived them of two Catholic pastors; and the charity of Dr Milner prompted him to go to the assistance of the unfortunate sufferers. This led to his being appointed to take charge of the mission at Winchester, which he did in the month of October 1779. Among his benevolent exertions there, he was one of the chief instruments which, through the influence of the late Marquis of Buckingham, who for many years was his friend and patron, obtained the removal of the prisoners to the King's house in that city. He also wrote a letter (much spoken of at the time) declaratory of his belief of the innocence, afterwards, when too late, admitted, of a person in Winchester gaol of the name of Sainsbury, under sentence of death for breaking open the house of Mr Amyott, the parliamentary representative for Southampton.

Dr Milner's first publication was "A Funeral Discourse on the Death of the Venerable and Right Reverend Richard Challoner, Bishop of Debora, and Apostolic Vicar of the Southern District, who died January 12th, 1781; pronounced January 14th, 1781; printed in the year 1782." In this discourse Dr Milner gratefully acknowledges that it was to Dr Challoner he was indebted for the advantage of receiving early impressions of piety, as well as for his sacred character.—His next work was "A Letter to the Author of a Book called 'A Candid and Impartial Sketch of the Life and Government of Pope Clement XIV.' London, 1785."—His third publication was "George the Third, the Sovereign of the Hearts of his Subjects; a Sermon, with Notes historical, explanatory, &c. preached in the Roman Catholic Chapel at Winchester, April 23d, 1789; being the day of General Thanksgiving for His Majesty's

happy Recovery." The design of this Sermon was to obviate some heavy charges of uncharitableness, sedition, and perjury, which had been brought against the Roman Catholic religion; and to prove that the Roman Catholics were capable of being good citizens, and good subjects to the English government.

But the circumstance which first called forth, in an eminent degree, the zeal and energies of the subject of this memoir, was the spirit of resistance to ecclesiastical authority, which followed the first relaxation of the penal code against the Catholics. This event took place in 1778, with little opposition in the senate, or dissension among the Catholics; but it was accompanied by the defection of some of the first characters of the Catholic aristocracy from their Church, particularly Lords Gage, Fauconberg, Teynham, Montague, Nugent, Kingsland, Dunsany, his Grace of Gordon, the Earl of Surrey, (afterwards Duke of Norfolk), &c. the Baronets Tancred, Gascoign, Swinburn, Blake, &c. as also the Priests Billinge, Warton, Hawkins, Lewis, Dords, &c. In 1782 five persons were appointed to be "a Committee for five years to promote and attend to the affairs of the Roman Catholic body in England;" and the time for its existence being expired, in 1787, another was nominated. Of these committees Mr Charles Butler was secretary. One of their measures was the proposal of a new oath, which gave rise to a strong contention, in which Dr Milner took a very prominent and able part. The oath was condemned by the then four Vicars Apostolic, who issued an encyclical letter, declaring that it could not be lawfully taken. This letter gave rise to the publication of the "Blue-Books," so called from being stitched in blue paper, and having no regular title. In one of these the Committee protested against the present and all future decisions of the Bishops, "as

encroaching on their natural, civil, and religious rights." Means were also used to persuade the Roman Catholic clergy and laity that they had a right to choose and appoint their Bishops; and three works were published in support of this pretension by a leading member of the Committee. These works were answered in detail by Dr Milner, in three separate pamphlets, bearing the following titles: "The Clergyman's Answer to the Layman's Letter on the Appointment of Bishops;" "The Divine Right of Episcopacy, addressed to the Catholic Laity of England, in Answer to the Layman's Second Letter to the Catholic Clergy of England, with Remarks on the Oaths of Supremacy and Allegiance;" and "Ecclesiastical Democracy detected; being a Review of the Controversy between the Clergyman and the Layman, concerning the Election of Bishops, and of other Matters contained in the Writings of Sir John Throckmorton, Bart."

Soon after the condemnation of the oath in 1789, two of the Vicars Apostolic died, and were succeeded in the latter part of the following year by Dr William Gibson for the northern district, and Dr John Douglas for the London district. The consecration of the former prelate was performed on the 5th of December, 1790, at the Chapel in Lulworth Castle, by Dr Walmesley, (the author of "Pastorini's History of the Christian Church,") assisted by the late Rev. Charles Plowden, and the subject of this memoir, who preached the consecration sermon, published in 8vo, 1791. Dr Douglas was consecrated at the same place on the 19th of the same month. Before the prelates left Lulworth, they agreed to a second encyclical letter, condemning the appellation of protesting Catholic dissenters, assumed by the above-mentioned Committee; and Dr Milner was appointed to act as agent for the Bishops of the western and northern districts. In this

capacity he became personally acquainted with the most celebrated statesmen of the day; namely, Mr Pitt, Mr Fox, Mr Dundas (afterwards Lord Melville,) and Mr Windham; and was likewise introduced to three of the Protestant Bishops, (with one of whom, Dr Horsley, he became united in friendship,) Mr Wilberforce, and Mr William Smith. By his powerful reasoning and earnest simplicity he effected essential service to his cause, in making these members of the Legislature sensible of the obnoxious parts of the oath which the Committee had introduced into their Bill for the Relief of the Catholics, and which was presented to the House of Commons, on the 1st of March 1791, by Mr Mitford. On this important occasion Dr Milner was at his post, to watch the sentiments of the members. On his journey from Winchester to London, he drew up a document relative to the dispute between the Prelates and the Committee, consisting of questions from the first Blue Book, with answers to the same, and entitled "Facts relating to the present Contest among the Roman Catholics of this Kingdom, concerning the Bill to be introduced into Parliament for their Relief;" and, on his arrival, he caused copies to be printed and circulated among the members. The effect produced by this paper was very great. After Mr Pitt had minutely read it, he thus expressed himself: "We have been deceived in the great outlines of the Bill; and either the other party must be relieved, or the Bill not pass."

In the meanwhile, a passage respecting our English St George, in Dr Milner's Sermon on the King's Recovery, having occasioned a controversy in the literary palaestra of the Gentleman's Magazine, of which Dr Milner was, at that time, a frequent correspondent, it produced from him, in 1792, an octavo pamphlet, entitled, "An Historical and Critical Inquiry into the Existence and Character of St George, Patron of Eng-

land, of the Order of the Garter, and of the Antiquarian Society; in which the Assertions of Edward Gibbon, Esq. (*History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, chap. xxiii.) and of certain other writers, concerning this Saint, are discussed. In a Letter to the Right Hon. George Earl of Leicester, President of the Antiquarian Society." In this pamphlet Dr Milner proved incontrovertibly that Mr Gibbon had confounded the illustrious patron of England, who was a military man, and not an ecclesiastic, with the infamous and turbulent usurper of the See of Alexandria, in the reign of Constantine.

On the execution of the French King, Dr Milner composed and published "The Funeral Oration of his late Most Christian Majesty Louis XVI. pronounced at the Funeral Service performed by the French Clergy of the King's House, Winchester, at St Peter's Chapel in the said City, April 12, 1793." This discourse is from 1 Tim. iv. 8.

The circulation of Dr Milner's forcible and argumentative "Facts," greatly annoyed the Catholic Committee. An attempt was made to invalidate his appointment; but it totally failed. Some farther steps taken by the Committee induced Dr Milner, in 1795, to publish "A Reply to the Report published by the Cisalpine Club, on the Authenticity of the Protestation at the Museum, in which the Spuriousness of that Deed is detected." Finally, the Committee were compelled by the Ministry to drop the obnoxious title of "Protesting Catholic Dissenters;" and in the House of Lords the condemned oath was totally discarded, the Irish oath of 1778 being substituted in its place.

The intervals between these controversies were dedicated by Dr Milner to the study of antiquities. His knowledge on that subject had obtained for him, (on the recommendation of Mr Gough, the celebrated topographer,) an introduction into the Society of Anti-

quaries; of which he was admitted a Fellow, on the 8th of March, 1790. In 1798, his indignation having been roused, in common with that of many judicious men of taste, at the unsparing transformation of Salisbury Cathedral, Dr Milner published "A Dissertation on the Modern Style of altering Cathedrals, as exemplified in the Cathedral of Salisbury." In this Essay, Dr Milner particularized the various alterations which had been made in Salisbury Cathedral, the monuments which had been removed, and the decorations which had been destroyed; painted a picture of the disgusting appearance of the recent fitting up of the church for the accommodation of those who had to perform divine service in it; and lamented the fatal example which was thus held out on a subject so deeply interesting.

It was not, however, until the latter end of the year 1798, when Dr Milner published his great work, "The History, Civil and Ecclesiastical, and Survey of the Antiquities of Winchester," (dedicated to the Countess Chandos Temple, lady to the present Duke of Buckingham,) that his fame as a writer became universal. Inestimable as were the benefits which England derived from the Reformation, it cannot be denied that it was the cause of the decline of ecclesiastical architecture. By degrees the sublimity of the English, or Gothic style, in sacred buildings, seemed to be no longer felt. It was even held in contempt by Sir Christopher Wren and the accomplished Evelyn. Horace Walpole, although his taste was imperfect, was in some degree sensible of its charms; and may be said to have given the first impulse towards its revival. The theory, however, was not understood, even at a later period. Warton, Grose, and Bentham, but particularly the last, contributed to improve the taste for this study; but it was reserved for Dr Milner more particularly to define the styles, and fix those terms by which

they were to be readily distinguished. His division of Saxon or Norman architecture into the circular style, and of Gothic into the pointed; his substitution of the term English for Gothic, as applied to the pointed style; and his deduction of the latter from the intersected circular arch, are well known. These opinions he fully illustrated in the course of his admirable "History, civil and ecclesiastical, of Winchester;" in his letter to Mr Taylor, containing "Observations on the Means necessary for the further illustrating the Ecclesiastical Architecture of the Middle Ages," and in his "Treatise on the Ecclesiastical Architecture of England during the Middle Ages." Dr Milner did more than explain the theory; he applied himself to prevent those unskilful alterations and innovations in our sacred buildings of antiquity, which amount to sacrilege and barbarism. The injudicious operations which he had seen in the cathedrals of Salisbury and Lichfield, and those commenced at Durham, called forth all his exertions in the Society of Antiquaries, in conjunction with Sir Henry Englefield, Mr Townley, Mr Gough, and Mr Carter, to stop their progress, in which they eventually succeeded.

Unfortunately, however, although highly meritorious in an historical and antiquarian point of view, Dr Milner introduced so much polemical disquisition into his "History of Winchester," that it occasioned severe animadversion in some of the Reviews, and gave rise to several controversial tracts. The character of Bishop Hoadly being treated with very improper freedom, Dr Milner observing, "it may with truth be said, that both living and dying, he undermined the church of which he was a prelate;" the Reverend Dr Sturges, Prebendary and Chancellor of Winchester, the friend of Dr Hoadly, published an answer, entitled, "Reflections on the Principles and Institutions of Po-

pery, with reference to Civil Society and Government, especially that of this Kingdom; occasioned by the Reverend John Milner's History of Winchester." And Dr Robert Hoadly Ashe issued "A Letter to the Reverend John Milner, M.A. F.S.A. Author of the Civil and Ecclesiastical History of Winchester; occasioned by his False and Illiberal Aspersions on the Memory and Writings of Dr Benjamin Hoadly, formerly Bishop of Winchester." Dr Sturges observed, that Dr Milner's work "was made so much the vehicle of an apology for Popery, and a satire on the reformed religion in general, especially that of the Church of England, that that seemed to have been the object predominant in the author's mind, and the ostensible subject, the History of Winchester, properly so called, secondary only and subservient to it." Dr Ashe vindicated Bishop Hoadly's religion and politics to the fullest extent, and in the most animated manner. Dr Sturges was supported by a letter in the Gentleman's Magazine, from the Reverend Joseph Berrington, who, himself a Catholic priest, defended his church from the imputation of being a party to Dr Milner's intemperance. This gentleman was answered by another of Sylvanus Urban's correspondents, who declared that Dr Milner's History of Winchester would be read by persons of all communions, "not only with approbation, but with delight; that it would be read by the historian with all the admiration which a new train of information relative to the events of past times could raise in the imagination; that it would be read by the antiquary with the profound satisfaction which such an inexhaustible store of national antiquities was calculated to create; and that it would be read by the artist with a participation of the enthusiasm which its picturesque description of the manners and customs of our ancestors so pre-eminently dis-

played." Dr Milner himself published, in the next Number of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, an answer to Mr Berrington's attack; in which he said of that gentleman, that his theological opinions had been censured by every ecclesiastical superior under whom he had lived; and, in 1800, he published "Letters to a Prebendary, being an Answer to Reflections on Popery by the Reverend J. Sturges, L.L.D. Prebendary and Chancellor of Winchester, and Chaplain to his Majesty; with Remarks on the Opposition of Hoadlyism to the Doctrines of the Church of England." The ability with which these "Letters" were written, was spoken of in terms of admiration in the House of Commons, by Mr Sheridan, Mr Windham, and Dr Laurence; and Dr Horsley, in the House of Lords, defended their author from an attack made on him by Lord Chancellor Loughborough. The Letters themselves have been printed and re-printed, in England, Ireland, and North America; and are regarded, by the Roman Catholics and their friends, as likely to "remain a standard of orthodoxy and noble eloquence, while the name of the venerable and learned author will be inscribed on the tablet of immortality."

In the same year in which Dr Milner published his "History of Winchester," he also published "A brief Account of the Life of the late Right Reverend Richard Challoner, D.D. Bishop of Debra, and Apostolic Vicar of the Southern District."

In 1801, the principal ground of objection taken to the "emancipation" of the Catholics, being, that it would be a violation of the coronation oath, Dr Milner published his "Case of Conscience solved; or, the Catholic Claims proved to be compatible with the Coronation Oath, in a Letter from a Casuist in the Country to his Friend in Town. With a Supplement in answer to Considerations on the said Oath, by

John Reeves, Esq." This work was the first performance of the kind ever committed to the press, and was dedicated to the late Mr Windham.

When Bonaparte became First Consul of France, he entered into a concordat with the late Pope Pius VII., who had recently been elected to the papal chair, by which a new circumscription of dioceses throughout that kingdom was deemed necessary. This measure met with some opposition among the French emigrant clergy, who had sought refuge in England from the persecutions of the revolutionary infidels during the reign of terror. M. Blanchard, in particular, published several works of a nature highly derogatory to the supreme head of the Catholic Church. At this crisis, Dr Milner produced a work of some extent, entitled, "An Elucidation of the Conduct of his Holiness Pope Pius VII., with respect to the Bishops and Ecclesiastical Affairs in France, in a Letter to a Country Gentleman. With a new Translation of the late Briefs; the one addressed to the Catholic Prelates, the other to the Archbishop of Corinth, relative to the Schismatical Prelates of that Country." In this work he showed that the Pope had only exercised the powers of his predecessor, Pius VI., and restored the Catholic religion in France, re-uniting that country with the Holy See, in a manner similar to that which Pole, as legate from Julius III., pursued in England, in the reign of Mary.

To add to the danger which at that time threatened the unity of the Roman Catholic Church in this country, the controversy about the "Blue-Book" doctrine was by no means extinguished, especially in the midland district, where the Staffordshire priests were imbued with its influence, and in a kind of hostility with the other districts. In this state of things, Dr Stapleton, who had been appointed Vicar Apostolic of the

midland district, in November, 1800, died in May, 1802. The vacancy occasioned a strong contest between the senior Vicar Apostolic and the opposite party, who had formed themselves into a "Cisalpine Club," and used every exertion to obtain a bishop of their own choice. By the united influence, however, of the senior Vicar and Cardinal Erskine, Dr Milner was appointed Bishop of Castabala, and Vicar Apostolic of the Midland District, on the 1st of March, 1803. Dr Milner having consented to receive consecration, that ceremony was performed in St Peter's Chapel, Winchester, May 22, 1803, by Dr Douglas, assisted by Drs Gibson and Sharrock, and by Dr Poynter, Bishop-elect of Halia, and several other priests of distinction. The Rev. T. White, the tried and chosen friend of the new Bishop, preached the consecration sermon. The consecration of Dr Poynter took place the following week, at Old-Hall College, and Dr Milner preached his consecration sermon.

Dr Milner lost no time in entering upon the active duties of his extensive diocese, which comprises fifteen counties. He immediately came to Longburch, a mansion upon the Challington estate, the ancient and usual dwelling of his predecessors; whence, on the 27th of December, 1803, he issued a "Pastoral Letter to all the Clergy, Secular and Regular, of the Midland District." In September, 1804, he took up his residence in the town of Wolverhampton, as a more convenient situation, where he continued to reside until the period of his dissolution.

To proceed in our enumeration of Dr Milner's works,—in 1805 he published, in 8vo, "A Short View of the Chief Arguments against the Catholic Petition now before Parliament, and of Answers to them, in a Letter to a Member of the House of Commons." This was a dissertation on the various topics of objection to the claims of the Ca-

tholics, and was quoted by Mr Fox in the House of Commons. In 1806 he issued "Authentic Documents relative to the Miraculous Cure of Winifred White, of Wolverhampton, at St Winefred's Well, in Flintshire; with Observations thereon." The subject was treated with the ridicule which it deserved, in the Gentleman's Magazine, in which also Dr Milner published a defence of the "Miracle;" yet, strange to say, in a third edition of the "Authentic Documents," in 1814, Dr Milner declared, that "he had not met with, or heard of, a reader of any description, who had controverted the facts or the reasoning contained in it!"

In 1807 Dr Milner published a second edition of his "Case of Conscience solved, and an Appendix, containing some Observations on a Pamphlet by the Rev. T. L. Le Mesurier, entitled, 'A Sequel to the Serious Examination into the Catholic Claims, containing a more particular Inquiry into the Doctrines of Popery.'" In the summer of the same year, Dr Milner paid, for the first time, a visit to Ireland. The result of the venerable Doctor's personal observations was given to the English public in a thick octavo volume, under the title of "An Inquiry into Certain Vulgar Opinions concerning the Catholic Inhabitants and Antiquities of Ireland, in a Series of Letters addressed from that Island to a Protestant Gentleman in England." The publication of this work, combined with the writer's appointment as agent to the Catholic hierarchy of Ireland, produced three separate pamphlets from the pens of established clergymen, whose remarks the indefatigable prelate answered in a postscript to the second edition of this work.

On the 25th of May, 1808, another discussion of the question of emancipation came on in the House of Commons, when, in the course of the debate, Mr Ponsonby stated, that if the prayer of

the petition were granted, the Catholics would have no objection to make the King virtually head of their church; and, on being asked for his authority, he named Dr Milner. A few days only passed before the publication of an explanatory letter from Dr Milner, which was read by the clergy to their congregations throughout the midland district. This circular was dated the 26th, the day after the debate, and showed the anxiety of the prelate to stand well with his flock and the public. He affirmed that he had given no authority to Mr Ponsonby to make use of his name in this way, and had only expressed to that gentleman, in an unexpected interview, the probability that some arrangement might be made to grant a negative power to the government in the choice of bishops for the Catholic sees of Ireland. The adversaries of Dr Milner, however, took every advantage of this misunderstanding on the part of Mr Ponsonby, to heap every degree of obloquy on the Doctor. Mr Ponsonby persevered in his statement, and satisfied his own friends of its accuracy; inasmuch as to induce Mr Whitbread to declare, that "if Dr Milner had been created for the purpose of sowing dissensions amongst the Catholics themselves, and unfounded distrust of their friends, he could not have succeeded better than he had done."

To his constituents, the Irish Catholic hierarchy, however, Dr Milner's explanation was satisfactory; and in September, 1808, they passed two resolutions, declaring it inexpedient to make any alteration in the canonical mode of nominating Catholic bishops, and pledging themselves to nominate those only who were of unimpeachable and loyal conduct.

In 1808, Dr Milner also published "A serious Expostulation with the Rev. Joseph Berrington, on his Theological Errors concerning Miracles;"

and "An Examination of the Articles in the Anti-Jacobin Reviews for November, January, February, and March last, upon 'the Substance of Sir J. C. Hippenesley's additional Observations, &c., on the Catholic Question,' in Four Letters to a Gentleman of Dublin;" and, in 1809, the "Substance of a Sermon preached at the Blessing of the Catholic Chapel of St Chad, Birmingham." In the latter year, also, his History of Winchester appeared in a second edition.

It would extend our memoir to too great a length to enter into a minute account of the transactions arising out of the question of the veto. We must, therefore, briefly remark, that the project of a negative power caused the active and indefatigable agent of the Irish hierarchy to be attacked by some writers in the Dublin papers, under the assumed signatures of Sarsfield, Laicus, Inimicus Veto, and others. To these he ably replied, and also wrote some articles in the Statesman newspaper in defence of the Catholics, which were afterwards published in the form of a pamphlet, entitled, "Letters from the Right Reverend Dr Milner, respecting the Question introduced into the House of Commons by the Right Honourable George Ponsonby, late High Chancellor of Ireland, relative to the granting to his Majesty by the Irish Catholic Church of a Veto, or Negative, in the Choice of the Irish Catholic Prelates; together with an Appendix, containing a Translation from the Latin of an Address of the Irish Catholic Synod to the Catholic Prelates and Dignitaries of the whole World, protesting against the Violence offered by the French Emperor to the Person and Rights of Pope Pius VII."

In defence of his opinions, Dr Milner wrote a pamphlet, entitled, "A Letter to a Parish Priest," which was intended exclusively for private circulation, fifty copies only being printed:

but one of these copies falling into the hands of his adversaries, it was printed and represented as a serious advocacy of the veto, whereas it was only meant as a vindication against a Catholic prelate, who had written to Dr Milner in terms too sharp and indignant for him to bear in silence. Though mortified by this *ruse* of his enemies, Dr Milner refused to explain the drift of his essay; and soon after, in deference to the decision of his episcopal constituents, he publicly retracted and condemned his work.

At a general meeting of Roman Catholics, in which it was proposed to pass a resolution, intimating a disposition to agree to such ecclesiastical securities as Parliament might consider the indispensable accompaniments to a concession of the Catholic claims, Dr Milner warmly resisted the proposition. The Catholic Prelates of Ireland were so satisfied with his conduct, that, in a synod held on the 26th of February, 1810, they passed a resolution, "That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Right Rev. Dr Milner, Bishop of Castabala, for the faithful discharge of his duty, as agent to the Roman Catholic Bishops of this part of the United Kingdom, and more particularly for his apostolical firmness in dissenting from and opposing a general, vague, and indefinite declaration or resolution, pledging the Roman Catholics to an eventual acquiescence in arrangements, possibly prejudicial to the integrity and safety of our Church discipline."

To do away the effect of a work published by Dr Milner, in 1810, called "An Elucidation of the Veto, in a threefold Address to the Public, the Catholics, and the Advocates of Catholics in Parliament," Mr Charles Butler took up his pen, and published "A Letter to an Irish Catholic Gentleman;" which work was immediately followed by another, by Dr Milner, called "Letters to a Roman Catholic Prelate of

Ireland, in Refutation of Counsellor Charles Butler's Letter to an Irish Catholic Gentleman; to which is added, a Postscript, containing a Review of the Rev. Dr O'Connor's works, entitled *Columbanus ad Hibernos on the Liberty of the Irish Church.*" This latter work appeared in 1811, and was published in Dublin. In the same year also appeared, from his prolific pen, "Instructions addressed to the Catholics of the Midland Counties of England, on the State and Dangers of their Religion," and a "Treatise on the Ecclesiastical Architecture of England during the Middle Ages."

In 1813, disapproving of the bill for relief of the Papists then introduced into the House of Commons, Dr Milner, coming to town from Wolverhampton on the 18th of May, the day previous to the debate in the Committee of the House, having experienced the successful effects of his efforts in 1791, immediately drew up a "Brief Memorial on the Catholic Bill," which he had printed and partly circulated on the 21st of that month, the grand division on the bill being fixed for the 24th. When the bill was lost, the British Catholic Board declared, that Dr Milner's "Brief Memorial" called for and had their most marked disapprobation, and that they did not consider themselves as implicated in, or in any way responsible for, Dr Milner's political opinions, conduct, or writings; after which they struck Dr Milner's name out of the Select Committee of the Board. On the very same day, and at the very same hour, the Irish Catholic Prelates were assembled in Dublin, under the presidency of the most Rev. Dr O'Reilly, the primate of the Irish church, and passed the following resolution:—

"Resolved, That the Right Rev. Dr John Milner, Bishop of Castabala, our vigilant, incorruptible agent, the powerful and unwearied champion of

the Catholic religion, continues to possess our esteem, our confidence, and our gratitude."

On the same day, too, the Irish Catholic Board met in Dublin to thank the prelates of their church, for condemning and rejecting the bill, which they rejoiced had been lost; and on the 15th of the following month (June,) an aggregate meeting of the Irish Catholics passed a resolution most complimentary to Dr Milner.

The Catholics of Drogheda and other places also publicly thanked Dr Milner for what they termed his spirited and unbending conduct.

In June 1813, a Catholic periodical work was established in London, called "The Orthodox Journal," to which Dr Milner became a frequent and an able contributor.

On the 30th of April, 1814, a rescript from Rome arrived in England, dated on the 16th of February, and bearing the signature of Mons. Quarantotti, approving of the bill of 1813, and calling upon the Catholics of Great Britain and Ireland to receive with gratitude what Dr Milner and the Catholic hierarchy had condemned as schismatical, or tending to schism; and the great body of Catholics of both countries had rejected with indignation. Pius VII. was at that time a prisoner in France, having been cast into a dungeon by Bonaparte. Previously to his leaving Rome, the Pope had appointed Mons. Quarantotti, with other divines, to manage the affairs of the missions, and they had been induced by the agent of the Catholic board to issue the rescript just mentioned. By a singular concurrence of events, at the moment the bearer of the rescript was on his way to England, the Pope, released from his captivity in France, was on his way to resume the exercise of his high functions at Rome. Dr Milner no sooner heard of this, than he instantly resolved to lay the case of the

English Catholics, and his own conduct, at the feet of his Holiness in person, and set out on his journey to Rome without delay. On his arrival, he found that the prelates and the theologians who had sanctioned the rescript were in deep disgrace, not only for that act, but for having taken the prohibited oath to Napoleon. Admitted to an audience of the Supreme Pontiff, the reception of Dr Milner was most flattering and honourable, and out of the customary course of etiquette. It appears, however, that, (whether by the intrigues of Dr Milner's enemies, or by the operation of a sound uninfluenced judgment on the facts themselves, it is of course impossible for us to determine,) an impression had been made at Rome, that Dr Milner, in his conduct in England, had not sufficiently united the *suaviter in modo* to the *fortiter in re*; for it was intimated to him that, although he had done his duty, and ought to proceed in the track he had hitherto pursued, yet that he should endeavour to act with moderation, and without hurting the feelings of others. It is even said, that his adversaries were so anxious to prevent his return to his native country, that they tried to have him placed under restraint; which attempt was rendered abortive only by the appearance of Murat, King of Naples, before the gates of Rome with his army, and the flight of the Pope and the cardinals to Genoa, then in the possession of the English.

Pius VII. quitted Rome on the 22d of March, 1815, and entered Genoa on the 3d of April; while Dr Milner pursued his road to England, and arrived at London early in May, after an absence of twelve months.

It would be tedious to detail the controversies of various kinds in which Dr Milner was engaged after his return. Whatever may be the merits of them, it is clear that Dr Milner was not singular in his opinions, for he re-

ceived an address signed by above four thousand Catholics in England, thanking him for his conduct "in defending their faith and church from the attempts of open foes and insidious friends to corrupt and destroy them."

Some proceedings in the House of Commons in the spring of 1816, with a view to ascertain what were the laws of foreign countries affecting Roman Catholics, induced Dr Milner to publish two works. The first was entitled, "An Humble Remonstrance to the Members of the Honourable House of Commons, on the Nature and Object of the Report of its Select Committee, for inquiring into the Laws and Ordinances of Foreign States respecting their Roman Catholic Subjects, &c. By a Native Roman Catholic Prelate." In this "Remonstrance" Dr Milner argued, that the laws and practices of Catholic states were no proof of the doctrine and discipline of the Catholic Church, unless they were acknowledged and received by her; and that to follow the decrees of absolute monarchs, would be to deprive the English Catholics of their constitutional religious liberty, and inflict upon them a real religious persecution. The other work was entitled, "Inquisition. A Letter addressed to the Hon. Sir John Cox Hipplesley, Bart. M.P., Recorder of Sudbury. By a Catholic Christian." This was a small pamphlet of twenty-six pages, and represented the Baronet as Grand Inquisitor, calling before him the late Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Troy; Dr Milner; the Rev. Mr Browne, of Stonyhurst; and Father Anthony of the Order of La Trappe.

In January, 1817, there appeared in the *Orthodox Magazine* (to which Dr Milner continued to be a frequent contributor) a critique on Mr Brown's "Historical Inquiry into the Ancient Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Crown."

On the 28th of April, 1817, Sir Hen-

ry Parnell presented the petition from the Roman Catholics of Ireland to the House of Commons, in which securities were more than hinted at as likely to be conceded by them. On the same evening, Mr William Smith presented a petition from the Roman Catholics of Warwickshire and Staffordshire, which was drawn up by Dr Milner, and in which the petitioners stated, that "they had heard with the utmost grief and dismay, that proposals had been made to the Honourable House for annexing to a bill for their further temporal relief different galling restrictions on their religious discipline, which they were convinced would essentially injure and subvert the religion itself, that taught them to be good subjects;" and "that however desirous they were to partake with their fellow-subjects in the full benefits of the happy constitution founded by their ancestors, they were still more anxious for the safety and integrity of their religion."

In 1818, appeared a work by Dr Milner, which had lain by him unpublished for at least fifteen years, entitled; "The End of Religious Controversy; or, a Friendly Correspondence between a Religious Society of Protestants, and a Roman Catholic Divine, addressed to the Right Rev. Lord Bishop of St David's, in answer to his Lordship's Protestant Catechism." This is pronounced by Mr Butler, in his Book of the Roman Catholic Church, to be "the ablest exposition of the doctrines of that church on the articles contested with her by Protestants, and the ablest statement of the truths by which they are supported, and of the historical facts with which they are connected, that has appeared in our language." Be that as it may, portions of it were most ably answered by the Bishop of St David's, and the Rev. Richard Grier; whose publications produced a reply from Dr Milner, in 1822, called, "A Vindication of the End of Religious

Controversy, from the Exceptions of the Right Rev. Dr Thomas Burgess, Bishop of St David's, and the Rev. Richard Grier, A.M. Vicar of Templebodane, and Chaplain to the Earl of Talbot, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in a Letter to a Catholic Convert."—But "The End of Religious Controversy" especially roused the ardour of the late Dr Parr, in defence of Bishop Hallifax; whom Dr Milner, in three places, states to have died a Roman Catholic. Dr Parr's "Letter to the Rev. Dr Milner, occasioned by some passages contained in his book, entitled 'The End of Religious Controversy,'" was originally intended for *The Gentleman's Magazine*; but, owing to various circumstances, did not eventually appear until after Dr Parr's death, when it was rebutted by Dr Milner, in no very satisfactory manner, in "A Parting Word to the Rev. Richard Grier, D.D., Vicar of Templebodane, on the End of Religious Controversy. With a Brief Notice of Dr S. Parr's Posthumous Letter to Dr Milner."

The article on Gothic Architecture, in Rees's Encyclopædia, was from Dr Milner's pen. To the *Archæologia* of the Society of Antiquaries he contributed, in 1794, *Observations on an Ancient Cup* formerly belonging to the Abbey of Glastonbury, printed with a plate in Vol. XI.; in 1806, an *Account of an Ancient Manuscript of St John's Gospel*, printed in Vol. XVI.; in 1809, a *Description of a Mitre and Crosier*, part of the Pontificalia of the See of Limerick, printed with a plate in Vol. XVII.; in 1811, an *Account of the Monastery of Sion*, in Middlesex, printed with a wood-cut of the conventual seal in the same volume; and in 1821, *Observations on the Use of the Pax in the Romish Church*, printed in Vol. XX., with a plate of an ancient Pax. He was the most voluminous contributor of *Essays*, illustrative of the admirable etchings of his friend, Mr John Carter,

in his "Specimens of Ancient Sculpture and Painting." The following subjects were elaborately described and explained by him: "Paintings in St Mary's Chapel, Winchester," Vol. I. pp. 40, 43, 47, 51; "Account of the Murder of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury," p. 57; "Basso-relievos on the Capitals of Columns supporting the Lantern of Ely Cathedral," Vol. II. pp. 14, 17, 24; "Sculptures, &c. from Hyde Abbey," p. 19; "Sculptures from the Hospital of St Cross," p. 29; "An Ancient Chapel near the Angel Inn, Grantham," pp. 33, 35; "An Oak Chest in the Treasury of York Cathedral," p. 37; "Statues and a Basso-relievo, in the High Altar of Christ Church, Hants," p. 43; "Brass in the Hospital of St Cross," p. 46; "Statues on the Screen entering into the Choir of York Cathedral," pp. 50, 54, 60, 64; "Painting on Glass at All Souls' College, Oxford," p. 54; "A Brass and Sculptures from Wimborn and Sherborn Minsters, Dorsetshire," p. 57; "The Penance of Henry II. before the Shrine of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury," p. 65. He also contributed to Mr Schneebellie's "Antiquaries' Museum," "Account of Paintings discovered in Winchester Cathedral."

After a protracted and painful illness, Dr Milner breathed his last, at his residence at Wolverhampton, on the 19th of April, 1826. The following extract of a letter from the Rev. Dr Walsh, Roman Catholic Bishop of Cambrayopolis, and the successor of Dr Milner as Vicar Apostolic of the Midland District, gives an interesting account of the venerable prelate in his last moments:—

"Early in the month of March, Dr Milner, whose health appeared to be rapidly declining, felt convinced that his dissolution was near at hand. On my entering his room, I think it was on the 6th of that month, he presented

to me a paper, on which he had written, in a few short words, his epitaph, containing a simple request, that the faithful would pray for his soul. He then directed me to examine, without loss of time, certain documents relative to the affairs of the district, as well as to his temporal concerns, that he might be quite free to give all his thoughts to God. He immediately entered into an edifying retreat, as a preparation for death, on which he conversed with the utmost composure. From that time, till he breathed his last, on the 19th of April, during the whole of a lingering illness, he gave repeated proofs of the most affecting humility, clarity, lively faith, and resignation. There was not a shadow of complaint. His only regret seemed to be at not suffering more for the sake of his Divine Master, whose image was constantly before his eyes."

The obsequies of this learned divine, and great controversialist, were celebrated at the Catholic Chapel, Wolverhampton, on the 27th of April. Upwards of thirty of the neighbouring priests attended, by whom the office for the dead was repeated, and a high (requiem) mass was performed, in which the Rev. Dr Walsh officiated, assisted by the Rev. Henry Weedall and the Rev. T. Green, as deacon and subdeacon, with others, principally from Oscott. After reading the Epistle and Gospel, the Rev. F. Martyn pronounced an eloquent and judicious funeral oration, in which he expatiated with such unaffected sincerity of feeling and veneration on the talents, the virtues, and the piety of the deceased prelate, as failed not to reach the hearts of many among his admiring and sympathizing congregation, composed as it was of persons of various religious persuasions.

The window-shutters of many shops and private houses were closed from the time of Dr Milner's death till after

his funeral; and a great number of persons put on mourning, as a mark of respect to his memory. Medals have also been struck in commemoration of his death.

MR LINDLEY MURRAY.

MR LINDLEY MURRAY was born in the year 1745, at Swetara, near Lancaster, in the state of Pennsylvania. His parents were of respectable characters, and in the middle station of life. They belonged to the Society of Friends, and had twelve children; of whom Lindley was the eldest; and eventually proved to be last survivor:

At an early period, he was for some time at the academy of Philadelphia, from which he was taken, to accompany his parents to North Carolina; his father conceiving that some commercial advantages would attend a temporary residence in that province.

In the year 1753, his father left Carolina; and with his family, settled at New York. In that city, Lindley was placed at a good school, in which he made the usual progress of young learners.

At an early age, Mr Lindley Murray was placed in the counting-house of his father, who was desirous of training him to the mercantile profession. He did not relish this employ, and the confinement to which it subjected him. His father, however, kept steady to his purpose; and sent him to Philadelphia, influenced, perhaps, by a hope, that a residence with a merchant at a distance from home, would better reconcile him to the employment. But this expedient did not answer his expectation; and, after some time, Mr Murray consented to his son's return to New York.

About this period, Lindley contracted a taste for reading, and a desire for a greater degree of literary improvement. The pleasures of study, and the advantages and distinctions, which

learning and knowledge had conferred on individuals who fell under his observation, augmented his wishes for the acquisition of science and literature.

Another experiment was, however, made to reconcile him to a mercantile life. His father presented him with a considerable number of silver watches, which he designed as a little trading stock; and which he had just imported, with many other articles, from England. By having the property of these watches, and by the prospect of increasing that property on the sale of them, and thus extending his concerns, in fresh purchases with the product, the young trader began to relish the occupation. The spirit of commerce took hold of him; and he contemplated, with pleasure, the future enlargement of his funds. In short, he entered into the business with ardour and satisfaction. At the same time he continued in his father's counting-house; and occasionally assisted in the routine of his commercial affairs.

Though the father had an earnest desire to promote the son's interest and happiness, yet he was, on some occasions, rather too rigorous. Among other regulations, he had given his son general directions not to leave the house, in an evening, without previously obtaining his approbation. This permission Lindley generally and readily procured. But a particular instance occurred, in which, on account of his father's absence, he could not apply to him. He was invited by his uncle to spend the evening with him; and trusting to this circumstance, and to the respectability of the company, he ventured to break the letter, though he thought not the spirit, of the injunction which had been laid upon him. The next morning he was taken by his father into a private apartment, received a very severe chastisement, and was threatened with a repetition of it for every similar offence. He naturally felt very indignant at such

treatment, under circumstances which, as he conceived, admitted of so much alleviation; and resolved to leave his father's house, and seek, in a distant country, what he conceived to be an asylum, or a better fortune. Having meditated on his plan, he came to the resolution of taking his books and all his property with him, to a town in the interior of the country, where he had understood there was an excellent seminary, kept by a man of distinguished talents and learning. Here he purposed to remain till he had learned the French language, which he thought would be of great use to him; and till he had acquired as much other improvement as his funds would admit. He was then about fourteen years of age. His views being thus arranged, he procured a new suit of clothes, packed up his little all, and left the city, without exciting any suspicion of his design, till it was too late to prevent its accomplishment.

In a short time he arrived at the place of destination, settled himself immediately as a boarder in the seminary, and commenced his studies. Past recollections and future hopes combined to animate him. In this quiet retreat, he had as much enjoyment as his circumstances were adapted to convey; but his continuance in it was not of long duration.

He had a particular friend, a youth about his own age, who resided at Philadelphia; and to whom he was induced to pay a short visit. When he was about to depart from that city, as he passed through one of the streets, he met a gentleman who had some time before dined at his father's house. This gentleman expressed great pleasure on seeing him; and inquired when he expected to leave Philadelphia. Lindley told him he was then on the point of setting off. The gentleman observed that the occasion was very fortunate for him; for he had just been with a

letter to the post-office, but found that he was too late. The letter, he said, was of importance; and he begged that his young friend would deliver it with his own hand, as soon as he arrived at New York, to the person for whom it was directed. Surprised by the request, and unwilling to explain his situation, Lindley engaged to take good care of the letter.

His new residence was at Burlington, about 20 miles from Philadelphia. He travelled towards it rather pensive, and uncertain what plan to adopt respecting the letter. Sometimes he thought of putting it into the post-office; sometimes, of hiring a person to deliver it. But the confidence which had been reposed in him, the importance of the trust, and his tacit engagement to deliver it personally, operated so powerfully on his mind, that after he had rode a few miles, he determined, whatever risk and expense he might incur, to hire a carriage for the purpose, to go to New York as speedily as possible, deliver the letter, and return immediately. His design, so far as it respected the charge of the letter, was completely accomplished. He delivered it according to the direction, and his own engagement. He was, however, obliged to remain in New York that night, as the packet-boat, in which he had crossed the bay, could not sail till the next morning. This was a mortifying circumstance, as he wished to return very expeditiously. The delay was, however, unavoidable. He put up at an inn near the wharf from which the packet was to sail in the morning, and waited for that period with some anxiety.

The young traveller thought he had conducted his business with so much caution, that no one acquainted with him had known of his being in the city. He had, however, been noticed by some person who knew him; and, in the evening, to his great surprise, an uncle of his paid him a visit. This uncle

treated him affectionately, and with much prudent attention; and, after some time, strenuously urged him to go with him to his father's house; but Lindley firmly refused to comply with his request. At length his uncle told him that his mother was greatly distressed on account of his absence, and that he would be unkind and undutiful if he did not see her. This made a strong impression upon him; and he resolved, therefore, to spend a short time with her, and then return to his lodgings. The meeting which he had with his tender parent deeply affected him. Everything that passed evinced the great love she had for him, and the sorrow into which his departure from home had plunged her. After he had been some time in the house, his father unexpectedly came in, and his embarrassment, under these circumstances, may easily be conceived. It was, however, instantly removed, by his father's approaching him in the most affectionate manner. They spent the evening together in love and harmony, and he abandoned entirely, without a moment's hesitation, the idea of leaving a house and family which were now dearer to him than ever.

A short time after he had returned to his father's family, he solicited the privilege of having a private tutor, to instruct him in classical knowledge and liberal studies. With this request his father complied. His tutor was very attentive, and gave him great encouragement to persevere, stimulating his application by portraying the advantages of science, and by the commendations which he bestowed on his progress. This close attention to study, and confinement to the house, did not, however, agree with his constitution. His sickly hue proclaimed the intemperance of his application. He found it necessary, therefore, to abate the ardency of his mental pursuits, and to intermix bodily exercise with them.

Not long after, he entered into a society of young persons, for the purpose of debating on subjects of importance and difficulty, and of exercising themselves in the art of elocution. The society met weekly, and as the members knew the subject that would be considered at their next meeting, they had an opportunity of preparing themselves for the discussion. This institution enlarged his stock of knowledge, promoted the business of arranging his ideas, and produced a certain degree of correctness and fluency of expression.

As his mind improved, and his views enlarged, he became still more attached to literary pursuits. He wished for a profession connected with these pursuits; and the study of the law particularly attracted his attention. When he was about seventeen or eighteen years of age, he expressed this inclination to his father, but it met with his decided opposition; and he took great pains to divert his son's thoughts from the subject. He represented the temptations which he would have to encounter in the practice of the law, and which would probably lead him to deviate from the principles and conduct of that religious society of which he was a member. After some time had elapsed, he ventured to renew the request, and drew up a case, in which his dissatisfaction with the mercantile employment, however beneficial and respectable it might be, and his earnest desire for a literary profession, were fully set forth.

This little performance, which contained several pages, was shown to his father; it was also occasionally shown to some of his friends, particularly to a gentleman of the law, Benjamin Kissam, Esq. who was his father's counsellor, and a man of eminence and integrity in his profession. The statement had a most favourable effect. The counsellor himself became his advocate, and in a short time his father consented to place him under that gentleman's care and tuition.

After four years from the commencement of his law studies, he was called to the bar, and received a license to practise both as counsel and attorney, according to the custom of that time, in all the courts of the province of New York. He soon commenced business, and prosecuted it with success. It answered the expectations he had formed, and his family and friends were satisfied with the prospects which attended him.

Before he entered into business, and about the twentieth year of his age, he conceived a strong attachment and affection for a young woman of personal attractions, good sense, a most amiable disposition, and of a worthy and respectable family. It was not long before he perceived that his regard met with a favourable reception. Time, and opportunity of knowing each other, confirmed their attachment; and after two years' acquaintance, they were united in marriage.

Not long after Mr Lindley Murray had commenced business, some circumstances rendered it proper for him to make a voyage to England, where his father had been about a year on commercial matters of importance, which made his presence there, at that time, very expedient. For many years previous to his leaving America, Mr Murray, sen. had been considerably indisposed; at the best, his constitution was but delicate. The climate of England, however, proved very beneficial. His son found him so much improved in his general health, that he could not but wish that he would continue in this country for a few years; and he himself was so strongly impressed with the hope of receiving benefit by such a residence, as well as by the advantages which would result to his concerns in trade, that he communicated his views to his wife, and expressed his wish to see her and his children in England. They accordingly, in the course of a few months, came to him; and as Mr

Lindley Murray did not expect to return very soon, his wife was persuaded to accompany them across the Atlantic.

In the latter part of the year 1771, Mr and Mrs Lindley Murray returned to New York. Mr Murray's parents and the rest of the family remained in England several years. But after that period of trial, Mr Murray, sen. perceived that the benefit which he derived from the change of climate was only temporary. His former indisposition resumed its wonted strength. Having, therefore, arranged his mercantile affairs entirely to his satisfaction, he, with his family, embarked for New York, and arrived safely there in the year 1775.

On Mr Lindley Murray's return to New York, he resumed the practice of the law. He had many friends and connexions—possessed great attention and industry—and enjoyed himself in again settling to his profession. An event, however, occurred at this time, which threatened a diminution of his business, particularly among the society of which he was a member. This society had lately purchased in the city a valuable piece of ground, for the purpose of erecting upon it a large meeting-house for Divine worship. Mr Lindley Murray was employed to prepare the deed of conveyance. He found everything regular, drew up the instrument, and, when it was engrossed, delivered it to the trustees for their inspection, before it was executed. When he expected the completion of this business, one of the trustees called upon him, and delicately observed, that, in consequence of some doubt as to the validity of the instrument, they had applied to a lawyer of distinction and long-established practice, who declared that the conveyance was void, being liable to the statutes of mortmain. Mr Murray was greatly surprised and hurt, and clearly perceived, that if this opinion were not effectually counteracted,

it would strike deeply at his reputation and practice as a lawyer. He therefore desired the person to leave the instrument with him for a little time, when, he doubted not, he should be able to satisfy the trustees that it was perfectly regular. Mr Murray immediately laid the conveyance before the first counsellor in the province, and requested his opinion of it in writing. He gave it, in the most explicit language, and fully adapted to the case. It was, he said, in every respect, a good deed; and he observed, in particular, that none of the statutes of mortmain would affect it. Mr Murray's mind was completely relieved by this decision. He produced the opinion to the trustees, who were perfectly satisfied with it, and appeared to be much pleased that he had so happily extricated himself from the difficulty. The result of this affair was exactly the reverse of what might at first have been expected. It established Mr Murray's reputation among the members of the Society; his business increased, and they applied to him with confidence.

Mr Murray's business was very successful, and continued to increase till the troubles in America commenced. A general failure of proceedings in the courts of law then took place. This circumstance, joined to a severe illness, which had left him in a feeble state of health, induced him to remove into the country. Mr and Mrs Lindley Murray chose for their retreat a situation on Long Island, in the district of Islip, about forty miles from the city of New York. Here they concluded to remain till the political storm should blow over, and the horizon become again clear and settled. About a year after his settling at Islip, the country became greatly distressed from the scarcity of salt. The British cruisers effectually prevented the introduction of that article among the Americans; and the Congress found it necessary to recommend and encour-

rage the making of it. Mr Murray conceived that salt-works might be advantageously erected on an island in the bay near which he resided; and he communicated this idea to an ingenious and spirited young man who was his neighbour. He very readily came into the plan, and joined Mr Murray in the execution of it. They embraced the scheme the more cordially, because they were attached to their country, and felt for the distresses in which it was involved. They procured materials at a considerable expense, employed artificers to construct the works, and were just ready to begin the manufacture, and reap the fruit of their labours, when the British forces took possession of New York, and consequently of Long Island. This event entirely superseded their operations, as the article of salt was then abundantly introduced into the country. Their loss was considerable, but they had no remedy; and the whole concern was, therefore, without hesitation, abandoned.

After Mr and Mrs Lindley Murray had resided at Islip about four years, Mr Murray became dissatisfied with a mode of life which consisted chiefly in amusement and bodily exercise; and perceived the necessity of doing something that would provide permanent funds for the expenses of his family. The British power was still maintained at New York, and appeared likely to be established there, and the practice of the law was completely superseded. He had, therefore, no prospect of any considerable employment, but by settling at New York and entering into mercantile concerns. He removed accordingly to the city, and took a situation favourable for business. His father gave him an unlimited credit in the importation of merchandise from London; and after forming the best judgment he could of the articles likely to be in demand, Mr Lindley Murray made out a large order. The goods

arrived, and he found a ready sale for them. Thus encouraged, he continued to import more of them, and that extensively, every season, and soon perceived that he had engaged in a very lucrative occupation. Every year added to his capital, till, about the period of the establishment of American independence, he found himself able to gratify the favourite wish of himself and Mrs Murray, and retire from business.

Mr Murray purchased a country seat on the banks of the river, about three miles from the city of New York. Here they promised themselves every enjoyment that their hearts desired; but their pleasant prospects were soon overcast.

Before retiring from business, Mr Murray had a severe fit of illness, which left him in a very infirm and debilitated state of body. He was encouraged by the hope, that a short residence at his delightful retreat would restore him to his usual state of health and strength. But season succeeded season, without his experiencing any salutary effect. He evidently grew worse, and his friends became alarmed at his situation. They generally recommended travelling; additional exercise, new scenes, and drinking the waters of certain medicinal springs, were thought likely to afford him assistance. As his spirits were good, and as life and health were very desirable, he cordially entered into the views of his friends, and, with his affectionate and sympathizing partner, he set off for Bristol, in Pennsylvania. They remained in this rural and pleasant town a few weeks, during which time Mr Murray bathed and drank the water, but without any advantage. The weather then growing extremely hot, Fahrenheit's thermometer being at 90 degrees, they proceeded to some celebrated springs in the mountains of New Jersey. Here Mr Murray seemed to grow better for a few weeks, but

the water yielded no permanent benefit. From the very elevated situation of those mountains, the air was cool and refreshing; but as the roads were stony and broken, he could not have the advantage of regular exercise in a carriage. To remedy this inconvenience, he made some efforts on horseback, and some on foot; but these efforts fatigued him to a great degree, and increased the debility under which he laboured.

Perceiving that neither the springs nor the situation produced any beneficial effects, and travelling being one of the means for the recovery of health which had been recommended to Mr Murray, he and Mrs Murray left the mountains, and bent their course towards Bethlehem, in Pennsylvania, a healthful and pleasant town about fifty miles from Philadelphia. This is a settlement of the Moravians. The situation of the place, its refreshing and salutary air, joined to the character of its inhabitants, made a cheering impression upon the travellers, and they took up their quarters at the inn with pleasure, and with the hope of advantage. A few days after they had settled here, they were most agreeably surprised by the arrival of Mr Murray's father, and his sister Beulah. This visit was as grateful as it was unexpected. Mr Lindley Murray's sister was a sensible and amiable young woman, of a gentle nature and engaging manners, to whom her brother and his wife were both very nearly attached; they therefore formed a little band, closely united by the ties of affection and consanguinity. This pleasing association, joined to the beauty and retirement of the place, gave an animating impulse to Mr Lindley Murray's spirits, so that he was better at Bethlehem than he had been in any other part of the journey.

When they were again settled at Bellevue, they had rather mournfully to reflect on the little benefit, if any, which Mr Lindley Murray's health had

derived from their summer excursion, and they naturally turned their attention to other means of relief that might promise success. During the course of his indisposition, he had found that he was generally better when the weather was cold; a temporary bracing was commonly the effect of the winter season. But he had observed that every succeeding summer took from him more than the winter had given. The prospect was therefore discouraging. Under these circumstances, Mr Murray consulted one of the first physicians of the country, who happened at that time to be at New York, and who, after maturely considering the case, advised him to remove to a climate where the summers are more temperate and less relaxing, and where, consequently, he might not lose, in warm weather, the bracing effects produced by the rigours of winter. From what he knew of Yorkshire, in England, he thought some parts of it might prove a proper situation.

After deliberately considering the advice of the physician, and the importance of the undertaking, Mr and Mrs Lindley Murray were fully convinced that it was expedient to try the effect of a more favourable climate, and to make a short residence in England. Soon after their determination was made, they prepared for the voyage. The trying scene having been passed through of taking leave of their relations and friends, they embarked in a commodious ship, near the close of the year 1784; and, after a prosperous voyage of about five weeks, landed at Lymington.

In a few days after their landing they reached London. Here they were cheered with the society of a number of their friends whom they had known in the visit which they made to this country in the year 1771. They continued in and near London about six weeks, and then proceeded for Yorkshire, where, after examining a variety of places, Mr Murray made choice of

for his residence, and purchased, a house and garden in the pleasant village of Holdgate, a mile distant from the city of York.

When Mr Lindley Murray first settled at Holdgate, his general health had been in some degree improved, and he was able to walk in the garden without assistance, several times in the course of a day. This increase of strength, and ability to walk out in the open air, were highly pleasing, and gave a fresh spring to his hopes, that the period was not very far distant, when he might return to his native country and friends, with the blessings of established health, and all the comforts which follow in its train. But these cheering prospects did not long continue. The exercise in his garden was so delightful, and appeared to be so beneficial to him, that he often indulged himself in it, till at length he found his little stock of newly-acquired strength began to decline, and that the former weakness of the muscles returned. This was not the effect of great and immoderate exertion, but proceeded from his not knowing how very limited his bodily powers were, and from not keeping within those limits. He soon perceived that it was necessary to give up his little excursions in the garden, but he continued to walk occasionally about the room as much as he was well able to bear, knowing the danger of resigning himself to a state of inactivity. This practice was kept up, in a greater or less degree, till it became inconvenient and painful. A walk even from his seat to the window at last overcame him. He perceived that he was always better, and more at his ease, when he continued sitting. This induced him to try the experiment of relinquishing all attempts at walking, and to keep to his seat through the course of the day. The result was, in every respect, beneficial. The soreness of the muscles abated—the little tone which remained in them

was not disturbed or overstretched—and he enjoyed an easy and tolerable state of health.

Mr Murray made it a point, however, to ride out daily in his carriage; and this, doubtless, contributed to counteract the injurious effects which would have resulted from constant inaction. In the summer of 1786, Mr Lindley Murray met with a great loss in the decease of his father.

When Mr Lindley Murray became confined, he could still employ himself in reading, in writing, and in conversation. His mind was preserved free and active. He might therefore hope to be exercised in doing something that would be useful to himself and others—something that would agreeably employ his mental powers, and prevent that tedium and irritability which bodily infirmities too often occasion. This might be accomplished in various ways; and he ventured to believe it might, in part, be effected by a publication which he had in view, and which he presumed would be interesting to many readers. In the early part of his life, as well as in its succeeding periods, he had a lively pleasure and satisfaction in perusing the sentiments of eminent and virtuous persons, on the subject of religion and futurity, when they approached the close of life. He thought that a collection of the testimonies of great and good persons in favour of piety and virtue, would, if they were properly arranged, be more interesting and more efficacious than a perusal of them detached, as many of them are, in the pages of history and biography. Under these impressions or views of the subject, he commenced his little work. As he wished to form it on liberal principles, and render it acceptable to readers in general, he was careful to introduce characters of various religious professions, and of different ages and countries.

The first edition of this book, which

was entitled, "The Power of Religion on the Mind," &c. appeared in the year 1787. It consisted of only five hundred copies, all of which were neatly bound, and distributed at Mr Murray's own expense. He sent them to the principal inhabitants of York and its vicinity, and accompanied each book with an anonymous note, requesting a favourable acceptance of it, and apologizing for the liberty he had taken. He soon found that his publication was well received, and it was not long before he was encouraged to print a new edition of the work in London, which met with a good sale. Several other impressions appeared in different places. When, after some time, a sixth edition was called for, he was induced to enlarge the book, and to put his name to it. And as he afterwards found that it continued to make a favourable progress, he conceived that if the copyright were assigned to some booksellers of extensive business and influence, it would be circulated more diffusively, and his design in composing it be still more effectually answered. Under this idea, he extended the work considerably; made some improvements in the language, and then disposed of the copyright, without any pecuniary recompense.

At the close of the year 1794, Mr Murray was seized with a severe illness, which continued for many weeks, and reduced him to so feeble a state that his recovery was much doubted.

Mr Murray had been often solicited to compose and publish a Grammar of the English language, for the use of some teachers who were not perfectly satisfied with any of the existing Grammars. He declined for a considerable time complying with this request, but being much pressed to undertake the work, he at length turned his attention seriously to it. He conceived that a Grammar containing a careful selection of the most useful matter, and an adap-

tation of it to the understanding, and the gradual progress of learners, with a special regard to the propriety and purity of all the examples and illustrations, would be an improvement on the English Grammars which had fallen under his notice. With this impression, he produced the first edition of a work on this subject. It appeared in the spring of the year 1795. The approbation and the sale which the book obtained, gave him abundant reason to believe that he had not failed in his endeavours to elucidate the subject, and to facilitate the labours of both teachers and learners of English grammar.

In a short time after the appearance of the work, a second edition was called for; this induced him to revise and enlarge the book. It soon obtained an extensive circulation, and the repeated editions through which it passed in a few years, encouraged him to improve and extend it still further; and in particular to support, by some critical discussions, the principles upon which many of its positions are founded.

Soon after the Grammar had been published, Mr Murray was persuaded to compose a volume of Exercises, calculated to correspond with, and illustrate, by copious examples, all the rules of the Grammar, both principal and subordinate. At the same time, he formed a Key to the Exercises, designed for the convenience of teachers, and for the use of young persons who had left school, and who might be desirous, at their leisure, to improve themselves in grammatical studies and perspicuous composition. In forming these two latter volumes, his design was not only to exercise the student's ingenuity in correcting the sentences, and to excite him to the study of grammar by the pleasure of feeling his own powers and progress, but to introduce, for his imitation, a great number of sentences, selected from the best writers, and distinguished by their perspicuity and ele-

gance ; and to imbue his mind with sentiments of the highest importance, by interweaving principles of piety and virtue with the study of language. The Exercises and Key were published in 1797, and met with a great sale ; and Mr Murray was encouraged, in the same year, to make an Abridgement of the Grammar, for the use of minor schools, and for those who were beginning to study the language. The four volumes being intimately connected, mutually supported and recommended each other.

As these books, except the Abridgement, were reprinted at York, Mr Murray corrected the press, which occasioned them to appear with a greater degree of accuracy (a point of considerable importance to books designed for schools) than if they had not received the author's inspection. The success which he had met with in his publications, encouraged Mr Murray to persevere in his literary pursuits. He produced a compilation, containing some of the most esteemed pieces in the language, both in prose and poetry, at once calculated to promote correct reading, to give a taste for justness of thought and elegance of composition, and to inculcate pious and virtuous sentiments. This work he entitled, "The English Reader."

The approbation given to The English Reader induced Mr Murray to publish an "Introduction" and a "Sequel" to that book. These three volumes pursue the same subjects ; they all aim at a chaste and guarded education of young persons.

The recommendations which these books received, persuaded Mr Murray to believe, that a collection in French, on similar principles, and made from some of the finest writers, would be favourably received by the public. Accordingly, he produced, in the year 1802, a compilation, entitled, "Lecteur François ;" and, in 1807, another, with

the title of "Introduction au Lecteur François."

In the year 1804, Mr Murray published a Spelling Book. He made it a point, in composing this book, to introduce no matter that is foreign to the objects which such a work ought to have in view ; and he was studious to bring the latter reading lessons to such a state of advancement, as would form an easy and natural connexion between this book and the "Introduction to the English Reader."

From Miss Frank, the author and editor of Mr Lindley Murray's "Memoirs," he received much valuable, and very material assistance, in compiling the Spelling Book, the Introduction to the English Reader, and the two volumes in French. He also received from the same hand, and from a number of literary correspondents, many very useful suggestions and criticisms, with respect to his English Grammar, and some of his other publications.

As he was desirous that his publications should have a circulation as extensive as he could procure for them, Mr Murray sold the copyrights to one of the first houses in London. These booksellers had it in their power to spread them very diffusely, and they did it perfectly to Mr Murray's satisfaction. They gave a liberal price for the books ; and Mr Murray acknowledged, that in all their transactions together, which have not been very limited, they demonstrated great honour and uprightness, and entirely justified his confidence and expectations.

After the Grammar, and the books connected with it, had passed through many editions, the proprietors conceived that an edition of the whole, in two volumes octavo, on fine paper, and in a large letter, would be well received by the public ; and Mr Murray embraced the opportunity to improve the work, by many additions which he conceived to be appropriate. These occupied about

one hundred pages of the first volume. This octavo edition of the Grammar appeared in 1808. It was favourably received, and a new edition was demanded in the course of a few months.

Soon after this period, Mr Murray experienced a considerable increase of debility and indisposition, from which he did not think he should recover. Till this time, he was able to go out daily in his carriage; and, in summer, he was frequently drawn about his garden in a chair, conveniently made for that purpose. But he was at length induced, though reluctantly, to relinquish all the little exercise which he had been accustomed to take. The last time he went out in his carriage was in autumn, 1809. The total want of exercise appears to have brought on a painful disorder, which, in June, 1810, terminated in the discharge of a small stone. His sufferings for some days were severe, and, for a few hours, acute; but his mind was, as usual, calm and resigned.

For several succeeding years he was much afflicted with oppressive languor, and with very uncomfortable sensations in his head and stomach. But, upon the whole, his health was not so much impaired as might have been expected from his total confinement to the house, his advanced age, and enfeebled constitution. His spirits were, with very slight exceptions, uniformly good; his demeanour was at all times gentle; and his disposition mild, cheerful, and obliging. When his health would allow, he found, till the close of life, much useful occupation, and even amusement, in revising and improving his works.

He was induced, also, to prepare some new publications, which he conceived would be useful. Having himself derived much benefit and satisfaction from the frequent perusal of Bishop Horne's Commentary on the Psalms, and being desirous of extending that benefit to others, he made and published "A Se-

lection" from that invaluable work. It was well received, and has been approved and recommended by several very respectable public critics.

He wrote also a little piece, published in 1817, "On the Duty and Benefit of a daily Perusal of the Holy Scriptures." It is well composed, and no doubt has promoted, in no small degree, the important object which the author had in view.

Mr Murray, from his retired life and unassuming character, did not receive any of those academical honours, to which the publication of his grammatical works, no doubt, fully entitled him. A tribute of respect was, however, paid to him by two literary societies at New York. In 1810, he was elected an honorary member of the Historical Society; and, in 1816, of the Literary and Philosophical Society. But he was not covetous of honour. The high approbation which his works received was gratifying to him, chiefly because it was an earnest and a proof of their usefulness.

His acquaintance and society, particularly after his works had obtained celebrity, were much courted by respectable and literary persons. But there was a genuine humility, and even a diffidence, in his nature, which seemed to shrink from the idea of personally attracting any share of public curiosity or observation. Indeed, the calls and applications for introduction, which he received, were so numerous, that had he encouraged them, the early and regular hours which he kept would have been much broken in upon, and the leisure which he enjoyed for literary pursuits greatly interrupted.

Mr Murray was much respected by many of his most distinguished contemporaries in America. When his works had procured for him a high degree of celebrity, the testimony of their approbation, especially of those with whom he had been personally acquaint-

ed, was peculiarly acceptable to him. From his fellow-student, Mr Jay, and from many other highly respectable persons, he received, on various occasions, letters replete with expressions of esteem, regard, and warm congratulation.

Mr Murray was exceedingly fortunate in his marriage. Mrs Murray, though not what is called a "showy," or a "literary" woman, possesses a solid understanding, great firmness of mind, and a kind disposition. To the poor and afflicted, she is, in a high degree, liberal and compassionate. By her skill and prudence in the management of her household affairs, she relieved her husband from all care or anxiety on those subjects. She was most tenderly attached, and even devoted to him; always preferring his gratification to her own. Her aged and beloved father, and a large circle of relations and friends, she freely left, to accompany her husband into England. For many years after she came into this country, she still called New York her home; but she never requested or wished Mr Murray to return. She encouraged and assisted him as far as she was able, in every good word and work; and often expressed her solicitous desire, that both she and her "precious husband," as she frequently called him, "might so pass through this life as not to fail of future and everlasting bliss." During the latter years of her husband's life, she scarcely ever quitted the house, and very rarely the two rooms occupied by him. She said she was most comfortable with him, and that if he were taken ill suddenly, as was sometimes the case, she could never forgive herself, if she were absent.

In the full enjoyment of life, and in the discharge of all its varied and important duties, Mr Murray attained his eighty-first year; which, considering his long confinement, and his general debility, was a remarkable circumstance, a kind of jubilee in his exist-

ence. On his birth-day he appeared so well and cheerful, and so bright in his mental faculties, that the prospect of losing him seemed as remote as on any similar occasion, during many preceding years. Persons who were strangers to him might suppose from his age and long confinement, that, at this period, he must have been fairly worn out, both in body and mind. But this was by no means the case. His health, towards the close of life, seemed rather to improve. In the autumn and winter immediately preceding his decease, he appeared unusually free from indisposition. His sight and hearing were good. With spectacles, he could read the finest print. His memory, even for recent events, was remarkably retentive. He appeared as sensible, well-informed, and cheerful as at any former period. His vigour of mind was unimpaired. He was, indeed, incapable of long-continued attention to any subject; but this seemed the effect of bodily, rather than of mental decay. His hair had become entirely white; his countenance bespoke age and feebleness, but still retained an expression of mingled intelligence and sweetness.

On the 10th of January, 1826, Mr Murray, being at dinner, was seized with a slight paralytic affection in his left hand; it was, however, of short duration, and was attended with no visible ill effect. On Monday morning, the 13th of February, he had a return of numbness in the same hand, but it soon yielded to friction, and wholly disappeared. Soon after, he conversed very cheerfully, and even pleasantly. During the day he was a good deal engaged, and much interested, in having the newspaper read to him, containing the debates on the commercial embarrassments of the country.

In the evening he was seized with acute pain in his groin, accompanied with violent sickness. Medical assistance was procured; but the means used

to afford relief proved ineffectual. During the night he had an alarming fainting fit, of long continuance. On recovering, he spoke most tenderly to his wife, and urged her to go to bed. On the following morning he seemed rather better, but said the pain was not removed. In the evening he was conveyed, in his rolling chair, to a bed prepared for him in his sitting-room. He spent a restless night, and in the morning he was in a state of extreme exhaustion. In the afternoon he again appeared better; but about half past eight on the morning of Thursday the 16th of February, 1826, he expired in peace, without a struggle, or even a sigh or a groan, in the eighty-first year of his age, and in the full possession of all his mental faculties.

On Wednesday morning, the 22d of February, Mr Murray's remains were interred in the burying ground of the Friends, or Quakers, in the city of York; amidst a large assemblage of individuals, many of whom had come from a considerable distance. From the stillness which prevailed, one might have thought only few persons were present. All were silent and serious; many deeply affected.

Good sense and sound judgment, were the predominating qualities of Mr Murray's mind. He took a large, comprehensive, and accurate view of the objects presented to his mental eye; and he discerned, clearly and readily, which of those objects were to be preferred and pursued. His apprehension was quick, his memory retentive, and his taste delicate and refined. There did not appear in any of the faculties of his mind either exuberance or deficiency. Their general harmony, as well as strength, constituted the distinguishing excellence of his intellectual character. The power of his intellect, and the habit of close, vigorous application, which he acquired early in life, enabled him, at will, to collect his thoughts, and to fix them wholly, and for a sufficient

length of time, on any subject under his consideration. Hence, whatever he did was well done, and with comparative ease. His grammatical works have obtained so much celebrity, and they exhibit so high a degree of excellence, that it might not unreasonably be supposed grammar was the principal study of his life; but it did not particularly engage his attention, until a short time previous to the publication of his first work on that subject.

He composed, and wrote, with quickness and accuracy. His Grammar, as it appeared in the first edition, was completed in rather less than a year. It was begun in the spring of 1794, and it was published in the spring of 1795; though he had an intervening illness, which, for several weeks, stopped the progress of his work. The Exercises and Key were also composed in about a year; and none of his succeeding publications engrossed, in the first instance, a larger portion of time.

Mr Murray's sentiments were elevated and refined; his ideas and opinions just and well founded, and always expressed in delicate and appropriate language. They often attracted attention by their novelty; accompanied with a conviction of their propriety, in the minds of those to whom they were communicated; together with some degree of surprise that they had not previously occurred, or at least not with so strong an evidence of their justness. Both in writing and speaking, his manner of expression was simple and pleasing, but correct and accurate, clear and concise: no one could be at a loss to understand his meaning, or to apprehend its force. He had a happy choice of words, and a clear arrangement of his thoughts; avoiding all useless repetition, or awkward, unnecessary explanation, and all contradiction or inconsistency. The current of his expressions and thoughts was easy and natural, smooth and regular.

Mr Murray had a considerable ac-

quaintance with the Latin and French languages, and some knowledge of Greek. He was an excellent arithmetician and accountant. With general literature, including history and geography, he was well acquainted.

He had an even flow of spirits, and great cheerfulness of temper. He seems to have been naturally mild, gentle, and compassionate, yet firm, steadfast, and resolute. He possessed to the latest period of his life lively sensibility, warmth of feeling, and tenderness of affection.

He exercised great and habitual self-control. All his feelings and emotions were, as far as human imperfection will allow, subjugated by reason and religion. He was quick in discerning, and solicitous to check the risings of evil passions, and to refrain, as far as possible, from acting under their influence. He seldom suffered any circumstance or event to ruffle his temper, or disturb his rest; and it may almost be remarked of him, as of an eminent statesman, that "he could cast off his cares with his clothes."

His income, independently of the profit of his publications, scarcely at any time exceeded 500*l.* or 600*l.* a-year. With this income, he was very hospitable and generous: he lived in a plain way indeed, but so respectably, and with so high a character for benevolence, that he was generally esteemed rich.—He frequently acknowledged as one of the blessings of Providence, that from his first establishment in life he had always had the means of living with comfort and respectability.

His appearance was noble and prepossessing. He was tall and well proportioned, and rather stout. His complexion was dark, and somewhat ruddy: it did not exhibit that sickly appearance which might have been expected from his general debility and long confinement. His forehead was open, expansive, and rather elevated. His features were regular. The profile of his face, if not handsome, was

strikingly noble and pleasing. The general impression of his countenance indicated at once the elevation of his mind, and the sweetness of his disposition. When he received and welcomed any stranger, or visitor, for whom he felt particular respect or regard, his countenance beamed with increased dignity and mildness; his eyes sparkled with benevolent animation, and a smile played on his lips; his whole appearance and manner bespoke, instantaneously and powerfully, superior intelligence, tempered by superior goodness and benignity.

The prices which Mr Murray received for the copyrights of his different works were as follows:—For the Grammar, Exercises, and Key, he received seven hundred pounds; for the Abridgement, one hundred pounds; for the English Reader, three hundred and fifty pounds; for the Sequel to the English Reader, two hundred pounds; for the Introduction to the English Reader, two hundred pounds; for the *Lecteur François*, and the Introduction au *Lecteur François*, seven hundred pounds; for the Spelling Book, and the First Book for Children, five hundred pounds; for the Selection from Horne's Commentary on the Psalms, one hundred pounds. The copyright of the Duty and Benefit of reading the Scriptures, as well as of the Power of Religion, was presented by him to the booksellers, without any pecuniary compensation. The enlargement of the Grammar in the octavo edition, and the numerous improvements in, and additions to, his other works, were always gratuitous on his part.

The demand for his grammatical works, and also for his Spelling Book, has been so great and regular, that excepting the octavo edition of the Grammar, the types which compose them have long been kept standing. The editions which have been worked off, though numerous, have not, however, been limited to a small number of co-

pies. For many years past, every edition of the Grammar has consisted of ten thousand copies ; of the Exercises, ten thousand ; of the Key, six thousand ; of the Abridgement of the Grammar, twelve thousand ; of the Spelling Book, and of the First Book for Children, ten thousand. Each edition of the English Reader, and of the Introduction to the English Reader, consists of ten thousand copies ; of the Sequel to the English Reader, six thousand ; of the *Lecteur François*, and the Introduction au *Lecteur François*, each three thousand.

In the United States of North America, the sale of Mr Murray's works is rapid ; and the editions are numerous. The success of his publications in his native land afforded him much satisfaction, and was peculiarly grateful to his feelings. The high approbation which his grammatical works have received, and their extensive circulation in the United States of North America, as well as in Great Britain, is a very pleasing consideration. They will doubtless tend in no small degree, to preserve the Anglo-American language from corruption ; and to stop the progress of useless innovation. The advantages likely to accrue to both countries, from a common standard of grammatical purity and propriety, are incalculable. The extended use of the English language is a distinguishing feature of the times in which we live : it may, perhaps, be one of the means in the hands of a wise and merciful Providence, for conveying the benefit of civilization, and the knowledge of Christianity, to the whole world.

THE RIGHT REV. REGINALD HEBER,
D. D. LORD BISHOP OF CALCUTTA.

REGINALD HEBER was the son of the Rev. Reginald Heber, of Marton, in Yorkshire. He was born on the 21st of April, 1783, at Malpas, in Cheshire,

a living held at that time by his father. From his childhood he gave promise of those Christian graces with which he was afterwards so richly endowed, and of those talents, which eventually set him high amongst the literary characters of his day. All however that we will say of this period of his life is, that the Bible was the book which he read with the most avidity, whether from that spirit of early piety, of which we hear so much more frequently than we see it ; or whether (which is more probable) from the beautiful pictures of primitive manners which the historical parts of Holy Writ display, and which are singularly attractive to a child. However it was, this first application of his powers laid the foundation of that masterly knowledge of Scripture which he afterwards attained, and to the perfecting of which almost all his future reading was made directly or indirectly to contribute. From the Grammar School of Whitchurch, where he received more than the rudiments of his classical education, he was sent to Dr Bristowe, a gentleman who took pupils near town ; and in the year 1800, was admitted of Brazen-nose College, Oxford. He came to the university not an accurate Greek or Latin scholar ; but with a very extensive range of information, and an insatiable thirst after knowledge. His mind was of that superior class that it could attain whatever its powers were applied to. As, for instance, he knew very little of the art of writing Latin verses ; yet as this was the only mode of distinguishing himself, in his first year at college, he applied his mind to Latin hexameters, and on his first attempt, in 1802, obtained the university prize ; the subject, " *The Carmen Seculare*."

He subsequently directed his attention to English poetry, which he composed at first with great difficulty. In 1803 the subject given for English verse was " *Palestine*." Upon this theme Mr

Heber wrote, and with signal success. Never did a prize-poem excite so general a sensation. It was set to music by an eminent professor ; by many it was committed to memory ; by all it was read.

Mr Heber then applied himself to mathematics, in which he made considerable progress. The higher classics, Pindar and Aristophanes, he construed with the spirit of a poet ; and few understood them so well. His range over classical ground was at last very extensive ; but he was more remarkable for that vigour of intellect which seizes, as it were by intuition, the meaning of an author, and catches at once his spirit, than for his accuracy as a mere verbal scholar. In 1805 he took his degree of B. A., and immediately after tried his powers in English composition, and gained the prize for the English essay ; the subject, " The Sense of Honour." Notwithstanding these distinguished honours, he left the university with all the native modesty he had carried thither, and with the cordial love of his contemporaries, who could feel no mortification at being vanquished by such an opponent, and no envy at the laurels of one who bore them so meekly. From Brazen-nose College he was elected to a Fellowship at All-Souls, and soon after went abroad. The Continent, at that time, afforded but small choice for an English traveller ; and he was, therefore, obliged to content himself with Germany, Russia, and the Crimea ; and how closely he could observe, and how perspicuously impart his observations, appears from the notes in Dr Clarke's *Travels* in the latter countries, which he was permitted to extract from Mr Heber's MS. *Journal*, and attach to his own pages.

Mr Heber and his friend visited, during this tour, the principal scenes among which Dr Clarke had travelled, in 1800, and which form the subjects of his first volume, published in 1810. In the preface to that volume, the learned and

justly-admired traveller acknowledges great obligations " to the Rev. Reginald Heber," whom he inaccurately describes as " of Brazen-nose College,"* for " the valuable manuscript *Journal*, which afforded the extracts given in the notes." Besides " Mr Heber's habitual accuracy, his zealous attention to which appears in every statement," Dr Clarke mentions " the statistical information, which stamps a peculiar value on his observations," and " has enriched the volume by communications the author himself was incompetent to supply ;" especially " concerning the state of peasants in Russia." Dr Clarke adds " a further acknowledgment, for some beautiful drawings, engraved in this volume."

Among these engravings is a vignette in which is delineated an unassuming tomb erected at Cherson, on a spot which Mr Heber and his friend visited, and where, in 1790, the noblest " of all the Howards" had closed his tour of philanthropy.

It does not appear when Mr Heber returned from the Continent. In 1808 he took his degree of A.M. at Oxford. The next year appeared from the press his poem, "*Europe*, Lines on the present War." This poem professes to be " a review of the general politics of Europe, with a wish to avoid, as much as possible, subjects purely English." The subject which predominates is, " the glorious struggle, which has drawn the attention and sympathy of all mankind to Spain," for whom the poet's prophecy, " But Spain, the brave, the virtuous, shall be free,"

is unhappily yet to be accomplished.

Having returned to England, and been presented to the family living of Hodnet, he married Amelia, daughter of Dr Shipley, the late Dean of St Asaph, and thenceforward willingly devoted himself to the enjoyment of those domestic charities, which no one was better fitted to promote, and to the dis-

* He had been elected to a fellowship at All-Souls.

charge of those unobtrusive duties, which fill up the life of a country clergyman. Few days passed ~~in~~ which he did not spend some time in intercourse with his people; suffering neither the aged to be deprived of the consolations of religion, through their inability to reach church, by reason of their years; nor the sick man to be long on his bed, without one to kneel by his side; nor the poor to languish in want, without his discovering and giving him help; nor neighbours to be at strife, without supplying to them a most effectual peace-maker.

At his parsonage he applied his vigorous intellect to the study of divinity, and in 1815 preached the Bampton Lecture. The subject selected by him was, "The Personality and Office of the Christian Comforter asserted and explained," in a course of sermons on John, xvi. 7. About this time he composed many articles for a Dictionary of the Bible; after which, with the exception of some critical essays, both theological and literary, not unknown to the public, though without a name, and an admirable ordination sermon, delivered before the late Bishop of Chester, and at his request committed to the press, he did not appear as an author till 1822, when his *Life of Jeremy Taylor*, with a Review of his Writings, made known to the world how well the interval had been spent in maturing his great knowledge by reflection, and chastising a style in his former work, perhaps somewhat redundant, by a sound judgment and more finished taste.

In 1822, Mr Heber was elected, by the Benchers of Lincoln's Inn, preacher to their Society, an office which had been filled by Warburton, Hurd, and numerous dignitaries of the church. His election to this office, independently of the acknowledgment it paid to his talents and character, was valuable to him, as securing his more frequent access to the metropolis. At Lincoln's

Inn his sermons were greatly admired by men of the highest talent and worth in the profession of the law.

It was not long before an occasion of employing him in a more extensive field of usefulness occurred; and on the death of Dr Middleton the Bishoprick of Calcutta was offered to Dr Heber.

The appointment of Dr Heber to the see of Calcutta gave great and general satisfaction. How warmly and justly the "Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge" hailed it, was eloquently manifested by the Valedictory Address delivered by Dr Kaye, the Bishop of Bristol, on the 13th of June, in the name of the Society.

With similar expressions of admiration was the appointment of Dr Heber to the see of Calcutta hailed by the "Church Missionary Society." "The appointment," we quote from the Report of the Institution for the year 1824, "of Dr Reginald Heber, is an event of the greatest promise to the cause of Christianity in the vast regions of the East connected with the united kingdom. In reference to the Society, the committee warmly congratulate the members on his Lordship's appointment: having long been its zealous friend and able advocate, his countenance and support in its enlarging concerns in India are confidently anticipated."

The Bishop left London on the 16th of June, 1823; and immediately embarked for India on board the Company's ship *Grenville*. On the 10th of October following, the Bishop, with Mrs Heber and their family, landed at Calcutta. On the 4th of November, at Dum Dum, the Military station of the East India Company's artillery, a few miles from Calcutta, his Lordship consecrated the new church, the foundation of which had been laid by his predecessor, Bishop Middleton, under the name of St Stephen.

On Ascension day, 1824, Bishop Heber held his primary visitation in

the Cathedral at Calcutta. The following report of his charge will prove with what an apostolic spirit he had entered upon his mission :

A sermon having been preached by Dr Parish, the Bishop took his seat near the altar ; and the clergy being assembled near him, his Lordship delivered his charge. After some remarks upon the ecclesiastical establishment in India, his Lordship, adverting to the backwardness of the English clergy to enter upon their calling in India, remarked : " Those, indeed, would be much mistaken who should anticipate in the fortunes of an Indian Chaplain a life of indolence, of opulence, of luxury. An Indian chaplain must come prepared for hard labour, in a climate where labour is often death ; he must come prepared for rigid self-denial, in situations where all around him incites to sensual indulgence ; he must be content with an income, liberal indeed in itself, but altogether disproportioned to the charities, the hospitalities, the unavoidable expenses, to which his situation renders him liable. He must be content to bear his life in his hand, and to leave, very often, those dearer than life itself, to His care alone who feeds the ravens, and who never, or most rarely, suffers the seed of the righteous to beg their bread. Nor are the qualifications which he will need, nor the duties which will be imposed on him, less arduous than the perils of his situation. But to the well-tempered, the well-educated, the diligent and pious clergyman, who can endear himself to the poor without vulgarity, and to the rich without involving himself in their vices ; who can reprove sin without harshness, and comfort penitence without undue indulgence ; who delights in his Master's work even when divested of many of those outward circumstances which, in our own country, contribute to render that work picturesque and interesting ; who feels a pleasure in bringing men to

God, proportioned to the extent of their previous wanderings : to such a man as Martyn was, I can promise no common usefulness and enjoyment in the situation of an Indian chaplain ; I can promise, in any station to which he may be assigned, an educated society, and an almost unbounded range of usefulness." I can promise him the favour of his superiors, the friendship of his equals, and affection, strong as death, from those whose wanderings he corrects, whose distresses he consoles, and by whose sick and dying bed he stands as a ministering angel. Are further inducements needful ? I can promise to such a man the esteem, the regard, the veneration of the surrounding Gentiles, the consolation at least of having removed from their minds, by his blameless life and winning manners, some of the most inveterate and injurious prejudices which oppose themselves to the Gospel ; and the honour it may be, of which examples are not wanting among you, of planting the cross of Christ in the wilderness of a heathen heart, and extending the frontiers of the visible church amid the hills of darkness and the strongholds of error and idolatry."

His Lordship then adverted to the great assistance afforded to the ministers of the Gospel in India, by the parental care of Government, the bounty of individuals, and the labours of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge ; in the establishment of schools, the distribution of religious tracts, and the management of lending libraries which his Lordship wished to become universal. The Missionaries who attended the visitation were then addressed by the Bishop, who alluded to the object and importance of their labours ; and this led his Lordship to the consideration of the great question of the conversion of the heathen, and to some remarks on the late publication of the Abbé Dubois. His gross mis-statements were confuted by an appeal to

the Protestant converts of Agra, of Benares, of Meerut, and of Chunar. "Bear witness," said his Lordship, "those numerous believers of our own immediate neighbourhood, with whom, though we differ on many, and doubtless on very important points, I should hate myself if I could regard them as any other than my brethren and fellow-servants in the Lord. Let the populous Christian district of Malabar bear witness, where believers are not reckoned by solitary individuals, but by hundreds and by thousands. Bear witness, Ceylon, where the cross has lost its reproach, and the chiefs of the land are gradually assuming, without scruple, the attire, the language, and the religion of Englishmen; and let him, finally, bear witness, whom we have now received into the number of the commissioned servants of the church, and whom we trust, at no distant day, to send forth, in the fulness of Christian authority, to make known the way of truth to those his countrymen from whose errors he has himself been graciously delivered."

The concluding passage relates, we believe, to the Reverend Christian David, who was baptized at Tranquebar, many years since, and who was admitted to holy orders at Calcutta by Bishop Heber.

In May, 1824, the Bishop consecrated a new church at Gouckpoor, a station in the interior of Bengal. From June to the end of that year, he was engaged in visiting the several European stations in Bengal, and the upper provinces of Hindoostan.

In January, 1825, the Bishop was at Acra, and went from thence to Jeypoor and Neemuch, to the stations under the Bombay Government, including Poonah, Kaira, Baroda, Baroach, Surat, and Guzerat, consecrating churches at these several places.

In May, 1825, the Bishop held his episcopal visitation at Bombay, where

we have understood that he preached on board the Honourable Company's ship Farquharson. On this progress he laid the foundation of two central schools. He also visited the Deccan, Ceylon, and Madras, on his return to Bengal; performing at each station the active duties of an apostolic Bishop.

During this period he appears to have zealously promoted the religious objects of the British and Foreign Bible Society. In their "Report" for 1825, they gratefully acknowledge that "the name of Dr Heber, Bishop of Calcutta, as an accession to the cause, is in every respect most valuable. With the aid of his Lordship's counsel and influence, the objects of the Society must be essentially promoted; its character also will be better appreciated, and it will commend itself more and more to the community."

Of the Bishop's last progress, destined so soon to terminate, prematurely, according to human apprehension, we have collected the following particulars:

He preached at Combaconum, on Good Friday, the 24th of March, 1826, and arrived the next day at Tanjore, where, on Easter Sunday, his Lordship preached an eloquent and impressive sermon. The following day he held a confirmation at the latter place; and in the evening addressed, it is said, in a very affecting manner, the assembled Missionaries. Having paid a visit of ceremony to the Rajah of Tanjore, and inspected the schools, he went on to Trichinopoly. Here, on Sunday, April 2, he again preached and again confirmed,—a rite which he repeated early the next morning in the Fort church. Having returned home, he took a cold bath before breakfast, as he had done the two preceding days. The servant, however, who attended him, thinking that he remained longer than usual in the bath, entered the apartment, and found the body in the water. The alarm

was instantly given, and Mr Robinson, the Chaplain, and Mr Doran, a church-missionary, took it out. Bleeding, friction, and inflating the lungs, were immediately tried, but in vain; and it was afterwards discovered that a vessel had burst upon the brain; an accident attributed by the medical men to the plunge into cold water, when he was warm and exhausted.

The following particulars are communicated in the *Madras Government Gazette*:

“*Tanjore, 31st March, 1826.*”

“The Lord Bishop of Calcutta arrived at Tanjore on the 25th instant, having preached an excellent sermon on the Crucifixion the preceding day, Good Friday, at Combaconum.

“On the 26th, Easter Sunday, English divine service was performed at the mission church in the little fort of Tanjore. His Lordship's chaplain, the Reverend T. Robinson, the Reverend J. Doran, and other Missionaries, assisted in reading the Liturgy. His Lordship preached an eloquent and impressive sermon on the resurrection. At the request of the native members of the congregation, his Lordship has kindly promised to have this sermon translated into the Tamul language, and printed. In concluding the sermon, the Bishop, in the most feeling manner, impressed the duty of brotherly love upon all present, without regard to rank or colour. The Lord's Supper was administered to eighty-seven communicants, thirty belonging to the English congregation, and fifty-seven native Christians who understand the English language.

“Divine service was performed in the evening at the same place in the Tamul language. The Liturgy was read by the Reverend Mr Barenbruck, assisted by a native minister, and a sermon preached by the Reverend Dr Cæmerer.

“To the agreeable surprise of all pre-

sent, his Lordship pronounced the apostolic benediction in the Tamul language.

“On Easter Monday his Lordship held a confirmation, when twelve English and fifty native youths were confirmed. As only a part of them understood the English language, the service was repeated by the Reverend Mr Kohlhoff in the Tamul language, who afterwards addressed those who had been confirmed. The whole service was interesting and affecting.

“In the evening Tamul divine service was held in the chapel in the Mission Garden, when the Reverend Mr Sperschneider preached in Tamul to a crowded congregation.

“At the conclusion of the service, the Missionaries present received an affectionate and animated address from his Lordship the Bishop, who observed, it was probably the last time that all present could expect to meet again in this world, and exhorted them to diligence and perseverance by the example of Swartz, near whose remains his Lordship was then standing. His address will not soon be forgotten by those who had the privilege of hearing it.

“On the 28th his Lordship, attended by his chaplain, and several Missionaries of the district, paid a visit of ceremony to his Highness the Rajah of Tanjore, under the customary honours. On the following day his Highness returned his Lordship's visit.

“On the 29th and 30th his Lordship visited and inspected the Mission schools and premises. The number of children in the English and Tamul schools amounted to two hundred and seventy-five boys and girls. His Lordship heard them read in English and Tamul, and expressed himself highly gratified at the progress which had been made by the scholars.

“His Lordship's visit to this important Mission, and the great interest he takes in its welfare with the valuable aid he contemplates affording it, call

for the liveliest gratitude : particularly from the Missionaries, and the numerous natives connected with the Mission. Sincere prayers will be offered to God, that his Lordship's valuable life may be long spared, and that the divine blessing may descend upon the exertions he is making.

" His Lordship left Tanjore, and proceeded to Trichinopoly on the 31st, in the evening.

" Our readers throughout India will receive with a universal sentiment of grief, the intelligence that the earthly career of our beloved and reverend Bishop terminated at Trichinopoly on the morning of Monday the 3d instant. His Lordship had reached that place on Saturday morning, and on the following day had preached and held a confirmation in the evening; after which he delivered another discourse, concluding with a solemn and affecting farewell to the congregation. On Monday, at an early hour, his Lordship visited a congregation of native Christians, and, on his return, went into a bath, as he had done on the two preceding days. He was there seized with an apoplectic fit, and when his servant, alarmed at the length of his stay, entered the bathing-room he found that life was extinct. Medical aid was immediately procured, but proved wholly unavailing."

Thus, having persevered unto the end, died this faithful servant of God, in the forty-third year of his age, and third of his episcopacy.

How he bore himself in the relations in which, as Diocesan of India, he was placed, let the following testimonies bear evidence.

At a public meeting convened at Madras, soon after the Bishop's death, to do honour to his memory, "after the meeting had been addressed with much eloquence by Sir T. Munro the Chairman, Sir R. Palmer, and others, a sub-

scription was forthwith commenced on a scale of splendid munificence, which was to extend throughout the Presidency, and amongst all classes, for the erection of a monument to the Bishop in the church at Madras, the surplus fund to be also expended in some manner best fitted to keep his name from perishing among them. At Bombay a subscription is also in progress, for the very appropriate purpose of endowing a scholarship at the Calcutta College, to be called " Bishop Heber's scholarship."

We are convinced that our readers will peruse with pleasure the following public testimony to the worth of Bishop Heber, afforded by the government of our Indian empire.

" Fort William, April 14, 1826.

" The Right Honourable the Governor General in Council has received the painful intelligence of the sudden death of the Right Reverend Reginald, Lord Bishop of Calcutta, on the 3d instant, at Trichinopoly.

" This distressing event having occurred at a distance from Calcutta, his Lordship in council has not, as on a former melancholy occasion, to invite the community to join in paying the last solemn honours to the deceased prelate, but he entertains the conviction, that every individual acquainted with the learning and worth of Bishop Heber, will participate in the deep and heartfelt sorrow of the Government, at the loss of one who was endeared to this Society by his engaging manners, extensive benevolence, and unaffected piety.

" The late Bishop had recently finished a long and laborious visitation through the territories of Bengal and Bombay, during which he had secured the good-will and veneration of all classes with whom he had communication, by his gentle and unassuming demeanour, and had proceeded to the provinces under Fort St George, in order

to complete this important branch of his episcopal duty, when a sudden and awful dispensation deprived Christianity of one of its most enlightened, most pious, and most amiable ministers.

"The Governor General in Council is pleased to direct, that minute-guns, to the number of forty-two, corresponding with the age of the deceased Bishop, be fired this evening, at sunset, from the ramparts of Fort William.

"By command of the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council.

"C. LUSHINGTON."

Pursuant to a notice of the High Sheriff, a numerous and respectable meeting of the inhabitants of Calcutta was assembled at the Town Hall, on the morning of the 6th of May, for the purpose of expressing the deep feelings of sorrow with which they viewed the unexpected death of their beloved Bishop, and of taking into consideration the most desirable mode of perpetuating his revered memory. Sir Charles Grey was called to take the chair, upon the motion of Lord Combermere, and with the universal concurrence of the meeting.

Sir Charles Grey having accordingly taken his seat, opened the business of the day with observations to the following effect :

"GENTLEMEN,—Before I proceed to anything else, I am reluctantly compelled to correct a seeming mistake as to the object of this meeting. A notice has appeared this morning, professedly by authority, which, though probably well meant, has in it something too much of the character of solicitation. I know not by what authority it speaks, but the friends of the late Bishop are anxious only that expression should be given to the feelings with which the community regarded him. Subscriptions for his monument, if they are spontaneous indications of respect and

sorrow, will be valuable testimonies, but not otherwise : and I trust, that neither solicitations nor influence will be employed to swell their amount. Leaving this matter, it is with real agitation and embarrassment that I find it my duty to mark out the grounds on which this meeting appears to me to have been called for ; assuredly it is not that there is any difficulty in finding those grounds, nor that I have any apprehension that you will not attend to a statement of them with willingness and indulgence. But this is a very public occasion, and my feelings are not entirely of a public nature. Deep as my sense is of the loss which the community has sustained, yet, do what I will, the sensation which I find uppermost in my heart is my own private sorrow for one who was my friend in early life. It is just four-and-twenty years this month since I first became acquainted with him at the University, of which he was, beyond all question or comparison, the most distinguished student of his time. The name of Reginald Heber was in every mouth ; his society was courted by young and old ; he lived in an atmosphere of favour, admiration, and regard, from which I have never known any one but himself who would not have derived, and for life, an unsalutary influence. Towards the close of his academical career, he crowned his previous honours by the production of his ' Palestine,' of which single work, the fancy, the elegance, and the grace, have secured him a place in the list of those who bear the proud title of English poets. This, according to usage, was recited in public ; and when that scene of his early triumph comes upon my memory—that elevated rostrum from which he looked upon friendly and admiring faces—that decorated theatre—those grave forms of ecclesiastical dignitaries, mingling with a resplendent throng of rank and beauty—those antique mansions of

learning, those venerable groves, those refreshing streams, and shaded walks—the vision is broken by another, in which the youthful and presiding genius of the former scene is beheld lying in his distant grave, amongst the sands of Southern India. Believe me, the contrast is striking, and the recollection most painful.

“But you are not here to listen to details of private life. If I touch upon one or two other points, it will be for the purpose only of illustrating some features of his character. He passed some time in foreign travel, before he entered on the duties of his profession. The whole Continent had not yet been re-opened to Englishmen by the swords of the noble Lord who is near me and his companions in arms; but in the eastern part of it the Bishop found a field the more interesting on account of its having been seldom trodden by our countrymen. He kept a valuable journal of his observations, and when you consider his youth, the applause he had already received, and how tempting, in the morning of life, are the gratifications of literary success, you will consider it as a mark of the retiring and ingenuous modesty of his character, that he preferred to let the substance of his work appear in the humble form of notes to the volumes of another. This has been before noticed: there is another circumstance which I can add, and which is not so generally known. This journey, and the aspect of those vast regions stimulating a mind which was stored with classical learning, had suggested to him a plan of collecting, arranging, and illustrating all of ancient and of modern literature which could unfold the history, and throw light on the present state of Scythia, that region of mystery and fable, that source from whence, eleven times in the history of man, the living clouds of war have been breathed over all the nations of the South. I can hardly

conceive any work for which the talents of the author were better adapted, hardly any which could have given the world more of delight, himself more of glory. I know the interest which he took in it. But he had now entered into the service of the church; and finding that it interfered with other and more immediate duties, he turned from his fascinating pursuit, and condemned to temporary oblivion a work, which, I trust, may yet be given to the public.

“I mention this, chiefly for the purpose of showing how steady was the purpose, how serious the views, with which he entered on his calling. I am aware that there were inducements to it which some minds will be disposed to regard as the only probable ones; but I look upon it myself to have been with him a sacrifice of no common sort. His early celebrity had given him incalculable advantages, and every path of literature was open to him, every road to the temple of fame; every honour which his country could afford, was in clear prospect before him, when he turned to the humble duties of a country church, and buried in his heart those talents which would have ministered so largely to worldly vanity, that they might spring up in a more precious harvest. He passed many years in this situation, in the enjoyment of as much happiness as the condition of humanity is perhaps capable of; happy in the choice of his companion, the love of his friends, the fond admiration of his family; happy in the discharge of his quiet duties, and the tranquillity of a satisfied conscience. It was not, however, from this station that he was called to India. By the voice, I am proud to say it, of a part of that profession to which I have the honour to belong, he had been invited to an office which few have held for any length of time without further advancement. His friends thought it at that time no presumption to hope that

ere long he might wear the mitre at home. But it would not have been like him to chaffer for preferment; he freely and willingly accepted a call which led him to more important, though more dangerous, alas! I may now say, to fatal labours. What he was in India why should I describe? You saw him! you bear testimony! He has already received in a sister presidency the encomiums of those from whom praise is most valuable; especially of one whose own spotless integrity, and a sincerity far above suspicion, make every word of commendation which is drawn from him of ten-fold value. I have reason to believe that, short as their acquaintance had been, there were few whose praise would have been more grateful to the subject of it. Would that he might have lived to hear it! What sentiments were entertained of him in this metropolis of India, your presence testifies; and I feel authorized to say, that if the noble person who holds the highest station in this country had been unfettered by usage, if he had consulted only his own inclinations and his regard for the Bishop, he would have been the foremost upon this occasion to manifest his participation in the feelings which are common to us all. When a stamp has been thus given to his character, it may seem only to be disturbing the impression to renew, in any manner, your view of it. Yet, if you will grant me your patience for a few moments, I shall have a melancholy pleasure in pointing out some features of it, which appear to me to have been the most remarkable. The first which I would notice was that cheerfulness and alacrity of spirit, which, though it may seem to be a common quality, is, in some circumstances, of rare value. To this large assembly I fear I might appeal in vain, if I were to ask that he should step forward who had never felt his spirit

to sink when he thought of his native home, and felt that a portion of his heart was in a distant land; who had never been irritated by the annoyance, or embittered by the disappointment, of India. I feel shame to say, that I am not the man who could not answer the appeal. The Bishop was the only one whom I have ever known who was entirely master of these feelings. Disappointments and annoyances came to him as they come to all, but he met and overcame them with a smile; and when he has known a different effect produced on others, it was his usual wish, that 'they were but as happy as himself.' Connected with this alacrity of spirit, and in some degree springing out of it, was his activity. I apprehend that few persons, civil or military, have undergone as much labour, traversed as much country, seen and regulated so much as he had done, in the small portion of time which had elapsed since he entered on his office; and if death had not broken his career, his friends know that he contemplated no relaxation of exertions. But this was not a mere restless activity or result of temperament. It was united with a fervent zeal, not fiery nor ostentatious, but steady and composed, which none could appreciate but those who intimately knew him. I was struck myself, upon the renewal of our acquaintance, by nothing so much as the observation, that though he talked with animation on all subjects, there was nothing on which his intellect was bent, no prospect on which his imagination dwelt, no thought which occupied habitually his vacant moments, but the furtherance of that great design of which he had been made the principal instrument in this country. Of the same unobtrusive character was the piety which filled his heart. It is seldom that of so much there is so little ostentation. All here knew his good-natured and unpretending manner; but

I have seen unequivocal testimonies, both before and since his death, that under that cheerful and gay aspect there were feelings of serious and unremitting devotion, of perfect resignation, of tender kindness for all mankind, which would have done honour to a saint. When to these qualities you add his desire to conciliate, which had everywhere won all hearts; his amiable demeanour, which invited a friendship that was confirmed by the innocence and purity of his manners, which bore the most scrutinizing and severe examination, you will readily admit that there was in him a rare assemblage of all that deserves esteem and admiration.

“But I will not leave the matter upon these grounds. What we do this day we do in the face of the world; and I am loath to leave it open, even to the malignant heart, to suppose that we have met here on a solemn but hollow pretence: that we use idle or exaggerated words, or would stoop to flattery, even of the dead. The principal ground of all on which I hold the death of the Bishop to have been a public loss, was the happy fitness and adaptation of his character for the situation and circumstances in which he was placed. There is no man, whether he be of the laity or a churchman, to whom I will yield in earnestness of desire to see Christianity propagated and predominant throughout the world; but it would be sinful, if it were possible, to banish from our recollection the truths which the experience of former ages has left for the guidance of the present. It is an awful but an unquestionable fact, that a fuller knowledge, a more perfect revelation of the will of God, has never been communicated rapidly to large masses of mankind, without their being thrown into confusion. To some it has seemed that religion is so important an element of social order, that no alteration can

be made of its quality and proportion, without the whole mass dissolving, fermenting, and assuming new forms; that by some mysterious condition of the lot of humanity, all mighty blessings are attended by some great evil; that every step to heaven is even yet to be won by fresh sacrifices and atonements. There is another, and, I trust, a better mode of reasoning on these symptoms, of interpreting these terrible signs. I will not readily believe that religion has been one of the causes of disorder, but rather that the vices of man having prepared the crisis, and called for the revulsion and re-action of the preservative principles of society, religion has only thus manifested herself in a more visible and tangible form, and come, as a ministering angel, to enable those who were struggling for the right to persevere and to prevail. The appalling fact, however, remains not the less indisputable, that it is in scenes of extensive disorder, amidst mortal strife and terrible misery, that she has achieved her greatest triumphs, displayed her strongest powers, and made her most rapid advances. When Christianity first spread itself over the face of the Roman empire, all the powers of darkness seemed to be roused to an encounter. The storm blew from every point of the compass; unheard-of races of men, and monsters of anarchy and misrule, more like the fantastic shapes of a dream than the realities of human life, appeared on the stage; and that period ensued which has been perhaps rightly considered as the most calamitous in the whole history of man. When that new world was discovered, which now presents such fair and animating prospects, religion was imparted to the southern portion of it by carnage and by torture; I say, that in South America the ground was cleared by the torch and dug by the sword, and the first shoots of Christianity were moistened by t

blood of unoffending millions. Again, when in Europe the church cast its old slough, and re-appeared in somewhat of its pristine simplicity, the whole Continent was convulsed by civil war for a century and a half. Witness in France those battles, and massacres, and assassinations, of the Huguenots and Catholics. In Germany, that closing scene of thirty years' confusion, in which the grotesque and barbaric forms of Wallenstein and Tilly are seen struggling with the indomitable spirit of Mansfield, and the majestic genius of Gustavus Adolphus. Witness in England the downfall of her ancient throne, and the eclipse of royalty. Let me not be misunderstood: I hold, that there is no one who has rightly considered these events, who must not, even whilst he mourns over them, admit that it is better the changes took place, even with their terrible accompaniments, than that they should not have taken place at all. But while I avow this, I hope it is not presumptuous to breathe a fervent prayer, that India may receive the blessing without the misery; not faint-heartedness, that I tremble at the possibility of all Southern Asia being made a theatre of confusion; not luke-warmness, that rather than see Religion advance upon the rapid wings of strife, I would prefer to wait for her more tardy approach, preceded by Commerce and the Arts, with Peace and Knowledge for her handmaids, and with all the brightest forms of which human felicity is susceptible, crowding in her train: I confidently trust, that there shall one day be erected in Asia a church, of which the corners shall be corners of the land, and its foundation the Rock of Ages; but when remote posterity have to examine its structure, and to trace the progress of its formation, I wish they may not have to record that it was put together amidst discord, and noise, and bloodshed, and confusion of tongues; but

that it rose in quietness and beauty, like that new temple where 'no hammer or axe, nor any tool of iron, was heard whilst it was building;' or, in the words of the Bishop himself—

No hammer fell, no ponderous axes rung;
Like some tall palm the mystic fabric sprung!

"That such may be the event, many hands, many spirits, like his must be engaged in the work; and it is because of my conviction that they are rarely to be found, that I feel justified in affirming his death to have been a loss not only to his friends by whom he was loved, or to his family of whom he was the idol, but to England, to India and to the world."

Upon the close of this address, which produced a powerful impression on the meeting, the following resolutions were moved in succession by distinguished individuals present, and unanimously adopted:

"That upon the occasion of the death of the late Bishop of Calcutta, it is desirable to perpetuate, by some durable monument, the sense of public loss with which this community is impressed; and the feelings of respect and affection with which the Bishop was regarded by all who knew him.

"That the most appropriate course appears to be, to cause a sepulchral monument of marble to be erected in the cathedral church of Calcutta; and that subscriptions be received for this purpose.

"That a committee of management should be appointed to superintend the receipt and application of subscriptions; and that they be desired to communicate with the brother of the late Bishop, Richard Heber, Esq. one of the representatives in Parliament for the University of Oxford, and to request that he will superintend the execution of the monument in England.

"That the following gentlemen should form the committee of management:—

"The Venerable Archdeacon Corrie, Mr Secretary Lushington, the Honourable Colonel Finch, W. Prinsep, Esq., W. Money, Esq., Rev. Principal Mill, Rev. W. Eales, Rev. J. Young; and that the Rev. Mr Robertson act as secretary.

"That the committee of management, if any surplus should remain after the erection of a suitable monument, should consider the propriety of applying it to the foundation of an additional scholarship in Bishop's College, to be named, 'Heber's Scholarship.'

"That in addition to the objects already named the committee should be at liberty, if the funds should be found sufficient, to appropriate a portion of them to the purchase of a piece of plate, to be preserved in the family of the brother of the Bishop, as an heir-loom for ever."

Proceedings at Bombay.

Pursuant to public notice, a very numerous and respectable meeting of the Society of Bombay was assembled in St Thomas's Church, on Saturday last, May 13, for the purpose of considering the most appropriate mode of evincing their respect and esteem for the late Right Reverend Reginald Heber, Lord Bishop of Calcutta.

The Honourable the Governor took the chair, and the meeting, having been addressed by his honour and other gentlemen, unanimously came to the following resolutions:

"That this meeting is penetrated with feelings of the deepest sorrow for the sudden and untimely death of the late Right Reverend Reginald Heber, Lord Bishop of Calcutta; and whilst they commemorate with the highest regard the goodness, the candour, and the charity which adorned his private character, they reflect with no less admiration on the lustre of his public life, distinguished as it has been by uncommon talents and extensive learning, and

consecrated to the unwearied labours of his high and important station.

"That a subscription be entered into for the purpose of raising a fund to endow one or more Scholarships at Bishop's College, Calcutta, for the benefit of this Presidency, to be called 'Bishop Heber's Bombay Scholarships.'"

At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of Madras, held at the Government Gardens, on Wednesday, the 12th of April 1826:—

The Hon. Sir Thomas Munro, Bart. K.C.B. in the Chair, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"That as the character of the late Bishop Heber was regarded with universal love and veneration, and as his life was of inestimable value, from the works of piety and benevolence which were in a great measure dependent upon it, and which were prosecuted with ardour, and with the happiest effect, to the very hour of its termination, so his death has excited the deepest feeling of grief in this settlement, and is esteemed by the present meeting a calamity to the cause of religion and humanity.

"That in order to perpetuate the sentiments entertained by this settlement towards the late beloved and revered Bishop, a monument be erected to his memory in St George's church, and that the Rev. Thomas Robinson, the domestic chaplain and esteemed friend of the Bishop, be requested to prepare the inscription.

"That a subscription be opened for the purpose of carrying the last resolution (that proposed by Sir G. Walker) into effect, and that any surplus fund be appropriated in the manner best calculated to do honour to Bishop Heber's memory.

"That a Committee of Management be appointed, consisting of the following persons:

Sir Ralph Palmer.	Captain Kelghly.
The Hon. Mr Græme.	Rev. R. A. Denton.
Sir R. Comyn.	Captain Sim.
Sir G. Rickets.	P. Cator, Esq.
The Venerable Arch-	Seth Sam, Esq.
deacon Vaughan.	W. Scott, Esq.
Lt. Col. H. G. A. Tay-	Lieut. Col. Stewart.
lor.	The Rev. W. Roy.
D. Hill, Esq.	The Rev. R. W. Moor-
Lieut. Col. Agnew.	son.
R. Clive, Esq.	J. Gwatkin, Esq.

and that the Rev. W. Roy and the Rev. R. W. Moorsom be requested to officiate as Secretaries, and Mr Gwatkin as Treasurer."

The following tribute from an Armenian to the late Bishop appears in the Harkaru of April 17 :

" On Friday last, when the melancholy intelligence was made known among the members of the limited Armenian community of Calcutta, who have been treated by his Lordship with the greatest kindness and consideration, they were not only seized with poignant grief at the premature death of such an excellent character, but considered it a national misfortune to lose, in Bishop Heber, a sincere friend to the Haican race, and to the church of Armenia. Accordingly, yesterday being the sixth Sunday of Lent, conformably to the code of that ancient Christian church, high mass and office were performed by Ter Joseph Stephen, late Vicar of the Armenian church in Calcutta, for the rest of the departed soul of the departed Bishop. The congregation were more numerous than usual, and their countenances plainly expressed their grief for the loss of one so beloved, and who had their interest so much at heart. While the awful knells, corresponding to the age of his Lordship, fell mournfully on their ears, many of them were evidently overpowered by the solemnity of the scene, and regret for the loss Christianity has sustained. Indeed the whole of the community were assembled on this melancholy occasion, to pay a tribute of their gratitude to departed merit, and to offer their prayers to God for the

spiritual rest of him who was so unremittently engaged in the cause of the Bible, and in promulgating its most pure and salutary doctrines."

The subscriptions to Bishop Heber's monument amounted, on the 18th of May, to 22,960 rupees ; the Rajah of Tanjore subscribed 1000.

THE RIGHT HON. ROBERT GIFFORD, BARON GIFFORD, OF ST LEONARD'S, IN THE COUNTY OF DEVON; MASTER OF THE ROLLS; DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS; AND RECORDER OF BRISTOL.

Lord Gifford was born at Exeter, on the 24th of February 1779. The natural disposition of mankind to exaggerate the marvellous, has probably been the cause of several statements which have appeared of the very humble condition of his family. It was, however, perfectly respectable. Lord Gifford's father was an extensive dealer in hops, grocery, and drapery ; and his uncle was a physician, resident in Exeter. The father of Lord Gifford was twice married, and had by his second marriage four children, of whom Lord Gifford was the youngest.

Robert received his education at a school at Alphington, near Exeter, kept by Dr Halloran, a man remarkable for his talents, and for his misapplication of them. From early youth, Robert Gifford, who was distinguished by the quickness of his apprehension, evinced a great inclination for the profession of the law, and was desirous to go to the bar ; but his father did not think that, consistently with his duty to the other members of his family, he should be justified in incurring the expense of educating his youngest son for that branch of the profession ; and accordingly, when Robert had attained the age of sixteen, he was articled by his father to Mr Jones, a very respectable

attorney of Exeter, in whose office he remained the usual period. Mr Gifford became a great favourite with Mr Jones, and towards the latter part of his clerkship, in consequence of Mr Jones's ill health, the chief management of the business devolved upon him. While in this situation, the superiority of his talents, and the perspicuity of his judgment, did not escape the observation of many intelligent men ; and various instances of the quickness of his penetration in unravelling legal difficulties, are remembered by his early acquaintance. One day the late Mr Baring, Member of Parliament for the city of Exeter, having some business of importance which required legal advice, called to consult Mr Jones on the subject. That gentleman, though well skilled in his profession, being somewhat perplexed by the difficulties of the case, turned to his clerk, and asked his opinion, which Mr Gifford gave with equal readiness, perspicuity, and modesty. Mr Baring was perfectly satisfied ; and on leaving the house said to a friend whom he met, that he had just been talking with a young man, who, if he lived, would certainly be one day Lord Chancellor.

It is probable that Mr Gifford had been induced to entertain expectations of being taken into partnership by Mr Jones, at the expiration of the term of his articles ; and it is also probable that the arrival of Mr Jones's nephew from London, to assume the management of his uncle's office, might have occasioned him some disappointment.

It is certain, however, that when Mr Gifford found himself his own master, his original inclination towards the bar revived with double force. Under the will of his father, who died during the second year of his clerkship, he had become entitled to some property ; but it was scarcely adequate to meet those heavy and unavoidable expenses which must be contemplated by every young

man who determines upon making the bar his profession. Between him and his brothers, however, there had always been the strongest attachment, and they most liberally declared, that he should not want any assistance which they could furnish, in the pursuit of his favourite object. Thus assured, Mr Gifford entered himself as a student at the Middle Temple, in 1800.

On his first coming to London, Mr Gifford was two years as a pupil with Mr Robert Bayly, who was then practising as a special pleader, and who is at present one of the barristers belonging to the western circuit ; and in 1803, he began to practise as a special pleader himself, his chambers being in Essex Court, in the Temple. Although unaided by any powerful connexion, yet his knowledge and his unremitting attention gradually brought him into extensive practice.

On the 12th of February 1808, Mr Gifford was called to the bar, where his abilities, and the assiduity with which he devoted himself to the acquisition of legal learning, soon attracted much notice. He joined the western circuit, and the Exeter and Devon sessions, where he almost immediately got into considerable business ; and both on the circuit and in London he was steadily making progress towards distinction, when one of those fortunate circumstances which sometimes occur, brought his talents into full play, and drew upon him the attention of the public. He was retained to argue the case of *Mogg versus Mogg*, in the Court of King's Bench, involving a number of important and difficult points connected with the law of real property, with which he was peculiarly familiar ; and on the argument he exhibited so profound a knowledge, and so much readiness in the application of it, that he attracted the attention of the late Lord Ellenborough, then Chief-Justice of the Court of King's Bench, who in-

vited him to his house, and to whose strong recommendation, added to that of the late learned and venerable Sir James Mansfield, Chief-Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, he was principally indebted for his early and sudden advancement.

Soon after this event, another case occurred in which he added to the reputation he had already acquired, and proved that his talents for dealing with numerous and complicated facts, were at least equal to his accurate knowledge of law. A commission of lunacy having been issued against a gentleman of the name of Baker, at the instance of his brother and sister, Mr Gifford was retained for the latter; and during an investigation which lasted nine days at the Castle at Exeter, and in which he had to contend with the late Mr Dauncy, one of the ablest advocates of his day, and Mr Abbott, the present Lord Chief-Justice of the Court of King's Bench, (who were brought down specially on that occasion,) Mr Gifford exhibited powers, both of argument and of oratory, of the highest order, and which are still fresh in the recollection of every one who was present on the occasion.

On the 9th of May 1817, he was appointed Solicitor-General. On the 16th of the same month he was elected one of the Masters of the Bench, by the Society of the Middle Temple, and shortly after took his seat in Parliament, for the borough of Eye, in Suffolk. After this, he left the Court of King's Bench, in order to practise in Chancery, which he continued to do till his elevation to the Bench in 1824. During this period he became the principal leader in the appeals to the House of Lords, and acquired that intimate knowledge of Scotch law, which he afterwards employed in so useful a manner for the country, in his capacity of Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords. On the resignation of Sir Vicary

Gibbs, Mr Gifford was chosen by the Corporation of Bristol to be their Recorder, an office which has never been held but by persons of the highest degree of legal merit. The duties of this station Mr Gifford discharged highly to the satisfaction of the Corporation; and he was requested by them to sit to Sir Thomas Lawrence for a whole-length portrait, to be placed in the Town-hall of the city of Bristol.

While Sir Robert Gifford was Solicitor-General, he distinguished himself on the trial of Dr Watson, in June 1817, and also at the trials under the Special Commission at Derby, in October of the same year.

In July 1819, on Sir Samuel Shepherd's being appointed Chief Baron of the Exchequer in Scotland, Sir Robert Gifford succeeded him as Attorney-General. In this important office, the due execution of the duties of which requires a happy union of firmness and prudence, Sir Robert Gifford deputed himself in such a manner as to give general satisfaction. He was so cautious to avoid prosecuting, except in cases in which he felt confident that conviction must be the result, that, we believe, not a single instance occurred of any failure on the part of the Crown during his continuance in office.

In the latter end of April 1820, Sir Robert Gifford prosecuted to conviction the conspirators in the "Cato Street plot." But the most important cause in which Sir Robert Gifford was engaged as Attorney-General, was one of a very trying nature; and the more so, as it was wholly without precedent. It was the prosecution by a bill of pains and penalties of Queen Caroline. The opinions taken upon the subject varied in the extreme; and though a few were for a prosecution, others recommended silence and a compromise. There can be little doubt that the Attorney-General was on the temperate side; but, while deliberating, the demise of the

venerated monarch took place ; and soon after, the country was alarmed by the report that the Queen Consort was on her way to England. Decisive measures were then considered necessary. A bill of pains and penalties was introduced into the House of Lords, and to the Attorney and Solicitor-General, Sir Robert Gifford, and Sir John Copley, its prosecution was intrusted. In the performance of this important and awful duty, Sir Robert Gifford betrayed no asperity, nor evinced any eagerness to criminate the royal personage. Throughout the whole of the proceedings, he adhered strictly to the pledge which he gave in opening the case.—“ My Lords,” said he, “ upon the nature of this charge, or upon the importance of this investigation, it is quite unnecessary for me to enlarge. Your Lordships, and every individual in the country, are fully capable of estimating these topics in their proper light. The only consolation which I derive under the discharge of the duty which I have now to fulfil is, that it calls not upon me to address myself to your Lordships’ passions or feelings ; and that I shall best discharge it, according to your Lordships’ command, by abstaining from any observation which might tend to aggravate the charge made against so illustrious a person.”

If, as has been said by some, Sir Robert Gifford was not quite so effective in his opening statement on this interesting occasion as it was thought he would be, the fact will be easily accounted for, when the great difficulties with which he had to contend, and the extraordinary and disgusting nature of the details into which he had to enter, are considered. But whatever deficiencies may be supposed to have existed in his opening statement, they were amply atoned for in that which constituted the more important part of his duty—his reply, which far surpassed the expectations of all who heard him.

It occupied in its delivery the greater part of two days, namely, the 27th and the 28th of October 1820 ; and was replete with convincing argument, and felicitous expression.

Although Sir Robert Gifford was not a very frequent, nor a very distinguished speaker in the House of Commons, (a circumstance in a great degree attributable to that diffidence which too often accompanies great qualities, and prevents their possessor from fully availing himself of his own intellectual powers,) he was by no means an idle or inattentive listener to the various discussions which took place in that assembly. During the time that he sat there, he took an active part in most of those debates which had reference to topics connected with his professional habits, and official duties.

The year 1824 was a year rich in honours to Sir Robert Gifford. On the resignation of Sir Robert Dallas, he was, on the 8th of January, appointed to the office of Chief-Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. He also received from the University of Cambridge the compliment of an honorary degree of M.A. There being at this time a great arrear of business in the appellate jurisdiction of the House of Lords, it was determined by the Cabinet that Sir Robert Gifford, whose acquaintance with the laws of Scotland was well known, should, in addition to the office of Chief-Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, be appointed Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, and assist the Lord Chancellor in hearing and determining the appeals from Scotland. Accordingly, he was created a Peer, by the title of Baron Gifford, of St Leonard’s, in the county of Devon, his patent being dated January 28, 1824, with a limitation of the honours to his issue male. The arrangement which took place upon this occasion was as follows : The Lord Chancellor attended the House of Lords on Monday-

and Thursdays, to hear writs of error, and English and Irish appeals; and Lord Gifford presided on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, for the determination of appeals from Scotland. During that and the two succeeding sessions of Parliament, he devoted himself gratuitously to the assiduous discharge of his new and important duties. So satisfactory were his decisions considered in Scotland, that, when he visited that country in the autumn of 1825, he was received with the most marked respect by the Judges of the Court of Session, and by all other persons of legal eminence. The University of Edinburgh conferred on him the honorary degree of LL.D., and he was unanimously complimented with the freedom of the city.

Sir Thomas Plumer, the Master of the Rolls, dying on the 25th of March 1824, Lord Gifford, on the 5th of April following, was made Master of the Rolls. This caused a great increase of labour to him; for it became a part of his duty to dispose of the numerous appeals brought under the consideration of the Privy Council. These various duties, both in the House of Lords and in the Privy Council, (in addition to his ordinary duties as Master of the Rolls,) were performed by Lord Gifford entirely gratuitously.

But all this was done at the expense of health and strength. During almost the whole period of this laborious exertion, those who were nearly and intimately connected with him, experienced the utmost anxiety on his account. At the very moment of a most wanton and bitter attack, in which it was stated in Parliament that the Rolls was all but a sinecure, the Master of the Rolls was attended by medical men, whose deliberate and expressed opinion was, that over-fatigue was undermining his constitution. Much pain unquestionably he did feel at that unjust attack; but the only answer he ever gave

it was the continuance of his efforts and the sacrifice of his life.

Utterly worn down and exhausted by his anxious and unremitting exertions, Lord Gifford, accompanied by his family, left London on the 23d of August 1826, for a house which he had taken on the Marine Parade at Dover. He was at that time suffering under a severe bilious attack. On Saturday the 2d of September, symptoms of inflammation of the bowels appeared; on the next day he became much worse; and, notwithstanding every effort that could possibly be made by his medical attendants, Dr Macarthur and Mr Sankey, at a little after six o'clock on the morning of Monday the 4th of September, this valuable man breathed his last, to the inconsolable grief of his friends, and the sincere regret of the public at large.

In person, Lord Gifford was well-proportioned, and of about the middle stature; his carriage was easy, his aspect mild, without any admixture of weakness; his eye was quick and intelligent; his general manner and address calm, frank, and engaging. With a liberality, especially honourable in a political opponent, the *Morning Chronicle*, a day or two after Lord Gifford's death, published the following just and admirable character of him:—

“ Few men will be more deeply deplored by their family, or more tenderly remembered by their friends. His own affectionate nature secured for him the warm regard of those who were near enough to see into his character. His mind, unstained by vice, had no need of concealment, and was at liberty to indulge its native frankness. He was unassuming, unaffected, mild, friendly, indulgent, and, in intimate society, gently playful. His attachments were constant, his resentment (for he had no enmity) was hard to provoke, and easily subsided. In his last moments he was sustained by the domestic affection

and religious hope which had cheered his life.

"His natural simplicity and modesty were unspoiled by rapid elevation and splendid prospects of ambition ; and if these retiring virtues could, without losing their nature, be generally known, they must have softened many of those ungente feelings which such an elevation is apt to excite.

"It may with truth be said of him, that he rose by 'fair means,' and in a high station bore his faculties meekly. By the very diligent application of an uncommonly quick, clear, and distinguishing mind, he became so learned in his profession, that the late Lord Chief-Justice Gibbs (himself one of the greatest lawyers of his age) assured the present writer, that, since the death of Dunning, he had known no man equal as a general lawyer to Gifford. He had the gift of conveying the subtle distinctions and abstruse learning of the law with a very rare union of perspicuity and brevity. He was soon distinguished on the Western Circuit, where the friendship of two such admirable persons as Horner and Lens was an earnest of the esteem of wise and good men. He was sought out by Ministers, to all of whom he was personally unknown, to fill the office of Solicitor-General. Sir Samuel Romilly, a severe but most upright judge, in the House of Commons declared his satisfaction that the appointment had been made on the fair principle of professional merit.

"It was his lot to hold office in a stormy season ; but all who knew him will bear a testimony, now unsuspected, that the performance of rigorous duties was uncongenial to his nature. The most remarkable display of his talents was made on a splendid theatre, but on an occasion so painful, that to revive the remembrance of it more distinctly, would not be in unison with his amiable temper.

"He was appointed, with universal approbation, Lord Chief-Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, with a title of honour which seemed to be the pledge of higher advancement.

"When the immense accumulation of Scotch appeals was thought to require some alteration in the appellate jurisdiction, Lord Gifford was chosen, for his unequalled knowledge of Scotch law, to carry the new measure into effect, and for that purpose was appointed to the newly-created office of Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords. Various opinions existed about the necessity of the office, but there was no diversity of opinion about the fitness of the man, and it was universally owned that he was selected for his fitness.

"The Journals of Parliament will attest the speed with which he removed the mass of undecided appeals ; and the unanimous applause of Scotch lawyers is the best evidence of the wisdom, learning, and justice with which he accomplished that arduous task.

"Among the numerous body who have risen from the middle classes to the highest stations of the law, it will be hard to name any individual who owed his preferment more certainly to a belief of his merit than Lord Gifford, or who possessed more of those virtues which are most fitted to disarm the jealousy naturally attendant on great and sudden advancement."

Lord Gifford married, April 6, 1816, Harriet-Maria, one of the daughters of the Rev. Edward Drewe, of Broad Hembury, near Honiton, in the county of Devon, the descendant of a highly respectable family, (long resident at their seat called Grange, in that parish,) which has repeatedly furnished High Sheriffs for the county. By this marriage he had issue, while living, three sons, Robert-Francis, (his successor,) born March 19, 1817, John, and Edward-Scott; and three daughters, Charlotte-Dorothy, Harriet-Jane, and Ca-

roline ; and Lady Gifford gave birth to another son, on the 4th of November, about nine weeks after Lord Gifford's death.

THE VERY REV. WILLIAM SHIPLEY,
D.D. DEAN OF ST ASAPH.

William Davies Shipley, the son of Jonathan, afterwards Lord Bishop of St Asaph, and Anna-Maria Mordaunt, a niece of the Earl of Peterborough, was born at Midgham, in Berkshire, on Saturday the 5th of October 1745, O. S. At an early age he was sent to Westminster School, but upon the appointment of his father, in 1760, to the Deanery of Winchester, he was removed to the College there, from whence he went to Oxford in 1763, and was admitted student of Christ Church, of which society his father had been a Canon some few years before. Here he took the degree of M.A. in 1770, and soon afterwards (viz. in 1771) was collated by his father, then Bishop of St Asaph, to the Vicarage of Wrexham, Denbighshire, when he left the University, and from that time resided in Wales. Upon the death of Dr Herring, in 1774, he succeeded to the Deanery of St Asaph, and likewise to the office of Chancellor of that diocese.

In 1777, he married Penelope, the eldest daughter and co-heiress of Ellis Yonge, of Brynnyorken, Esq. and Penelope his wife, daughter of Colonel James Russell Stapleton, of the Guards, and of Grey's Court, Oxfordshire.

From his father, the Dean inherited a sincere attachment to our excellent constitution in church and state, and to those liberal principles which produced the Revolution, and established the House of Brunswick on the throne of these kingdoms. It was the defence of these principles that engaged him in a contest, which, at the time, drew the general attention of the public, and will ever be regarded as a proof of his man-

ly and disinterested character, for the principles which he maintained were then no longer fashionable.

With this contest is connected the illustrious name of Sir William Jones, who not long afterwards (viz. in 1783) became the Dean's brother-in-law, by his marriage with Anna-Maria, eldest daughter of the Bishop of St Asaph. About the close of the American war, that steady friend to liberty had written and published a little piece on the subject of government, entitled, "A Dialogue between a Gentleman and a Farmer." Of this piece, he was the known and acknowledged author. The Dean of St Asaph republished it in Wales, upon which he was indicted for a libel by a political adversary ; but the ostensible prosecutor was William Jones, the present Marshal of the King's Bench Prison, at that time a Welsh attorney. The prosecution was long and vexatious ; for the prosecutor, after twice bringing the cause for trial in a Welsh court, suddenly moved it by *certiorari* to Shrewsbury. When it came there to a hearing before Mr Justice Buller, the jury were inclined to negative the charge of libel, and refused to give a general verdict against the Dean. In this celebrated trial, the real question was, whether or not the matter was libellous ; and the single point in debate, whether or not the jury were to decide upon it. For the prosecution it was contended, that they were not ; and the judge, in summing up, inculcated the same doctrine, which indeed at that period was generally current in the courts. The jury, however, gave a verdict, by which they found the publishing *only*, evidently meaning that they found nothing libellous in the matter : but this verdict not satisfying the judge, it was altered, by the suggestion of the prosecutor's counsel, (Mr Bearcroft) and given, according to his dictation, in these words, *guilty of publishing, but whether a libel or no, we do not*

find. The case was then brought up for judgment into the King's Bench, when that Court had the sagacity to discover a flaw in some part of the proceedings, and thereupon quashed the whole.

Such was the termination of that long-protracted case ; but it led to an alteration which was made some years afterwards in the law of libel, or rather in the practice of the courts. We allude to the statute, by which, in cases of libel, the jury are authorized to decide upon the law as well as the fact. The statute did not pass without great repugnance on the part of the lawyers : the two chiefs of the profession, viz. the Lords Thurlow and Kenyon, thought fit to enter their protest against it.

Another remarkable circumstance that attended the case was this : while the Dean was under prosecution for a publication of the pretended libel, the author was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Judicature at Calcutta. Sir William Jones, who was too intrepid and open an assertor of the rights of Englishmen to wish for any concealment, wrote a letter to Lord Kenyon, at that time Chief Justice of Chester, while the indictment was lying in his Court, avowing himself to be the author of the piece in question, and maintaining that every position in it was strictly conformable to the laws and constitution of England.

Throughout the whole of this transaction, the Dean's conduct was irreproachable. He knew the principles of the Dialogue to be sound, and those he resolutely maintained, but without any mixture of personal animosity, much less with any criminal design. From his father he had learned to "pay due reverence to the constitution : " he had learned, that "it was his duty to study its principles, and consider its structure, that he might be qualified to defend, to preserve, and to improve it." From the same source he had learned, that "in

whatever hands power is lodged under any government, there always goes with it an obligation to use it to those purposes of public good, for which it appears to have been given ; " that "this is the only good tenure by which all authority is held." These were the principles in which the Dean was educated, and throughout the course of his long life he found no reason to change them.

This adherence to his principles appeared in the preface which he wrote when he gave an edition of his father's works in 1792. He there asserts, "that the teachers of a religion whose principle is to do good to all men, cannot, without deserting their office, forbear to teach the duties of princes and magistrates, and to show the guilt and ruin arising from the violation of those duties ; that, on such occasions, it becomes necessary to raise our conceptions above the common business of private life, and venture to apply the simple precepts of our Saviour to the greatest and most important operations of government ; that in the plainness of those precepts there is a depth of wisdom sufficient to direct the highest actions of men ; that the sublimity of the Christian morals consists in the usefulness, the extent, the universality of the principles ; that they give laws, not only to the vulgar, but to statesmen, princes, and lawgivers themselves." And farther, "that the ministers of religion should consider themselves as the teachers of whatever is good and useful to mankind ; or, in other words, as teachers of the gospel." "Let the clergy," says he, "like the rest of their fellow-subjects, pay all due submission to the powers that are set over us for our good ; tribute to whom tribute, honour to whom honour is due ; but let them teach the greatest their duty ; that they are not only servants of our common Master, but by the very tenure of their office, servants of the people."

And as the Dean of St Asaph enjoyed this domestic example for his conduct in general, so especially had he the same excellent pattern for the substance and manner of his preaching. The Sermons of his father are distinguished by such doctrines as the following: that "to establish among men the practice of moral goodness and righteousness is the great end of true religion;" that "matters of positive institution are subordinate, and useful only as they promote the practice of real godliness, virtue, and charity;" that "we do not think justly of our holy religion, unless we remember that it is the most extensive and universal of all religious dispensations;" that "it is not only revealed, but adapted to every country and every climate, to all the different races of men, and to all the infinite forms of society and government in which they can be placed;" that "by mixing intimately with the springs and principles of action, it assumes a right to conduct and govern every scene of human life, and forms (as the exigencies of the world require) not only saints and martyrs, but princes and statesmen." These doctrines were conveyed in an unaffected style, which, for purity and elegance, has not any superior in our language. Such was the rational and liberal course of preaching which the Dean had for his example, and which he respectfully and uniformly followed.

Dr Shipley died at Boddryddan, on the 7th of June 1826. By his marriage he had five sons and three daughters. Of the sons only Charles, the youngest, survives him; he is Rector of Maypooder, in Dorsetshire. The third, Captain Conway Shipley, of the Royal Navy, fell, in the course of the late war, in an action near Lisbon; a monument was erected to his memory on the banks of the Tagus by the officers of Sir Charles Cotton's fleet. William,

the eldest, married Charlotte, daughter of the late Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart. by whom he left a son and a daughter. The Dean's daughters are, Penelope, the wife of Dr Pelham Warren, M.D.; Anna Maria, widow of — Dartwood, Esq. and Amelia, widow of the Right Rev. Reginald (Heber), late Lord Bishop of Calcutta.

THE HON. C. H. HUTCHINSON.

On the 26th August at Benlomond House, Downshire Hill, Hampstead, the Hon. Christopher Hely Hutchinson, after a lingering illness, aged 59. Mr Hutchinson was the fifth son of the Right Hon. John Hely Hutchinson, by his wife Christiana, Baroness of Donoughmore. His father was, perhaps, the most gifted, certainly one of the most remarkable, men of his day in Ireland. Unlike the generality of his countrymen, though he had inherited a good paternal property, and by his marriage became possessed of an estate of six thousand a-year, he followed, with the utmost zeal, his profession of the law, which was in those times the pursuit offering the greatest facilities for the display of talent and the acquirement of distinction. To Mr Hutchinson it was at once lucrative and honourable, by enabling him to realize four-score thousand pounds at the bar, and to fill the office of Prime Sergeant; subsequently to which, he was, at the same time, Provost of the University of Dublin, Privy Seal, and Secretary of State for Ireland. His son Christopher had, consequently, from his early youth all the advantages that are derived from rank, fortune, and high consideration. His mother was an immediate descendant of Colonel Hutchinson, Governor of Nottingham castle, and seemed to have inherited much of his talents, firmness, and piety. It was no doubt owing to her example, and to the in-

fluence of a happy home, that her son first received the impression that remained indelible, that happiness was only to be found in the domestic circle. His education was conducted on the most liberal principles, combining the advantages of private and public tuition. He gained various academic honours in the University of Dublin, where he took a degree, and was much distinguished in the historical and debating society, so deservedly esteemed at that time, but since unfortunately dissolved. During the vacations of the college he was sent, with two of his brothers, to travel on the Continent, with their tutor, Mr Adair, a gentleman of considerable learning and ability. Mr Hutchinson had always the greatest desire to enter the army, which indeed, subsequently, proved to have been his natural vocation; but he was unfortunately not permitted to choose his own line, but sent to the Temple to study the law—a profession the least suited to his character. He was, however, called to the bar in 1792, and at the close of the same year, married the young and beautiful daughter of Sir James Bond. In January 1795, Mr Hutchinson came into Parliament for the borough of Taghmon, vacant by the death of his father. This entrance into public life was during the memorable period to Ireland of Lord Fitzwilliam's administration. The appointment of this nobleman was by no one hailed with higher hopes for the welfare of his country than by Mr Hutchinson, who warmly supported measures dictated by the most enlightened policy, and was one of those who deeply deplored that distinguished viceroy's recall, and anticipated its fatal consequences. He of course entered into the most decided opposition to the government under Lord Camden—sanguinary and relentless, worthy only of the dark ages, unparalleled in modern history. In the memorable debate on the Catholic question, in the summer of 1795, Mr Hut-

chinson made a most impressive speech; and immediately after, as his eldest brother, the late Lord Donoughmore, supported the government on other questions, and was displeased at the independent line Mr Hutchinson had adopted, he vacated his seat.

The spring of the following year plunged him in the deepest affliction by the loss of his wife, who died of a consumption, leaving him an only son, the present candidate for the representation of Cork. A prey to immoderate grief, and mortified by the political state of his country, Mr Hutchinson retired wholly from public life, gave up his profession, and lived with his infant son in the greatest privacy at the Black Rock, near Dublin. From this state of inaction he was roused by the breaking out of the Rebellion in 1798, when it became incumbent on every gentleman to espouse one side or the other. Perhaps Mr Hutchinson thought, with Mr Fox, that after the conduct that had been adopted, rebellion to an Irishman must be a question, not of right but expediency, and considered the government as the real instigators of that rebellion, and even sympathised with and honoured the feelings of some of the leaders. But sufficient proof had transpired of the sanguinary intentions of others among them to shock every humane mind. Besides, Mr Hutchinson, though an enemy to oppression, was a friend to order, and attached to the principles of the British Constitution; only insisting that its blessings should be extended to his countrymen. But when, in this instance, they took up arms on what appeared to him insufficient grounds, he thought that they should not be treated with, but put down, and afterwards every effort made to redress their grievances. Accordingly he enrolled himself in the lawyers' corps, one of the military associations for the protection of Dublin, in which gentlemen of the first families performed the duties of common sol-

diers. He was conspicuous for his zeal and loyalty, while he made the most strenuous and often successful efforts to rescue various victims from the merciless system of flogging and torture, so disgracefully exhibited at Baring's riding-school, and in the Castle-yard of Dublin, under the eyes of the first officers of the state. In the August following, the French landed on the coast of Galway, in which district General Hutchinson commanded. His brother Christopher immediately joined him. After a partial success at the battle of Castlebar, the invaders laid down their arms at Ballinamuck, where Mr Hutchinson received the swords of two generals under rather singular circumstances. General Cradock, Admiral Pakenham, Colonel Crawford, of the Hompesch dragoons, and Mr Hutchinson, who accompanied the staff of the Viceroy, Lord Cornwallis, commanding in person the force which marched against the invaders, volunteered to reconnoitre; and at the distance of about three miles from head-quarters, suddenly fell in with the whole of the French troops—they gave themselves up for lost; but Mr Hutchinson directly rode up to Generals La Fontaine and Sarrazin, telling them he was followed by a force it would be vain to resist, and demanding their swords, which, strange to say, were instantly delivered up. But when more than an hour elapsed before Lord Cornwallis's army appeared, General La Fontaine perceived the deception that had been put upon him, and struck with the intrepidity and presence of mind Mr Hutchinson had displayed, exclaimed, "*Pardi, mon Colonel, cela ne se fait pas deux fois.*" On the title of Colonel being disclaimed, and that of a civilian acknowledged, the general replied, "*Monsieur a donc manqué sa vocation!*" Lord Cornwallis, as a mark of respect to Mr Hutchinson, intrusted the prisoners to his care, and on the third of September, 1798, he conducted them to England.

About this time commenced his attachment to the lady he afterwards married, and who still survives him. In the ensuing year the Union between Great Britain and Ireland was proposed in Parliament, a measure which Mr Hutchinson ever regarded with abhorrence. It is well known that the general feeling in Ireland was strongly against the Union. Innumerable pamphlets were written, and meetings convened, to oppose it. At one of these, of the lawyers' corps, the legality of the measure was discussed; the debate ran high. Mr Hutchinson observed that it was idle to argue the question, which was not one of expediency but force; and calling the attention of the meeting to the manner in which government had strengthened its hands, and to the number of regiments which had been brought over, he proposed a resistance at the point of the bayonet. The proposal not being seconded, he withdrew in disgust, and soon after quitted Ireland, determined never to return.

In the following autumn, General Hutchinson having been appointed to the unfortunate expedition of the Helder, Mr Hutchinson, who had ever been extremely attached to his brother, and passionately fond of a military life, volunteered to accompany him. He acted as his aide-de-camp, (though the present General Taylor held that station,) and was at his side when his lordship was severely wounded at the battle of Altmär. The Duke of York, and the officers of that expedition, formed a high opinion of his military talents; and Lord Hutchinson, in a letter to Mrs Hutchinson, on his return to England, wrote, "My brother returns, poor as he went, but covered with the glory of the campaign. The whole army do him justice. He has taken the greatest care of me in my wounded state, and attended me with all the tenderness of a woman." Such was his nature, for never was on earth a more rare combination of every manly

quality with every kind and gentle feeling. He returned from Holland in November 1799, remained in England till the ensuing May, when he again volunteered with Lord Hutchinson, who was appointed second in command on the memorable expedition to Egypt, under Sir Ralph Abercromby. In Sir Robert Wilson's account of that campaign, he makes honourable mention of Mr Hutchinson, whose conduct during the whole time, and under circumstances of great delicacy and difficulty, is too well known to all the distinguished officers engaged to be here dwelt upon. Suffice it to say, that Lord Hutchinson had the greatest confidence in him, which was repaid by the most important services. Upon his lordship's elevation to the peerage, the representation of the city of Cork became vacant, and Mr Hutchinson was unanimously chosen to succeed him. He accordingly returned to England in 1802, and took his seat in the first Imperial Parliament the succeeding year. At this time, having become an object of attention, he was induced, contrary to his usual habits, to mix somewhat in general society, and was even most favourably received in that of his present Majesty; but the field, the senate, or domestic life alone had charms for him. This mortified not a little a person who was too proud of, and valued him too highly, not to wish him to be generally known, and who could not help exclaiming: "What! you have neglected everything in pursuit of fame, and now you muffle the trumpet."

Every opportunity was taken by Mr Hutchinson to direct the attention of Parliament to the situation of Ireland. Whilst others blazoned forth her crimes, and regarded her degradation as their punishment, he urged inquiry into the wrongs that led to them.

When the war broke out again after the peace of Amiens, Mr Hutchinson supported the government on that ques-

tion, being persuaded that the existence of England as a nation depended upon her resistance to the power of France. It was at this period that he wrote to the Duke of York, stating his former services, and offering to raise a regiment. His Royal Highness gave a polite answer, commended his zeal, but rejected his proposal. This disappointment, however, did not prevent him from again appearing in the field. He accompanied Lord Hutchinson on his mission to the Emperor of Russia and the King of Prussia, at the close of 1806, and was engaged in the whole of the campaign of the following year. At the battle of Preuss Eylau, he was slightly wounded by a splinter from the explosion of a shell, while acting on the staff of General Benningsen. At the battle of Friedland, both Lord Hutchinson and his brother were in the hottest of the action, and but for the presence of mind of the latter must have been made prisoners. Immediately after the conclusion of the peace of Tilsit, Mr Hutchinson availed himself of the opportunity to visit Moscow and the southern part of Russia, taking Odessa in his way, where he passed some time with the Duke of Richelieu. On his return to England in 1808, his political life was resumed. In the general election of 1812 he had a contest for the election of Cork, but though the poll lasted eighteen days, and the whole power of government was arrayed against him, he was defeated by a majority of only eight votes. This is the only occasion on which he was unsuccessful, though often opposed, having been chosen to represent that city in seven Parliaments. Upon the conclusion of the war in 1815, he removed his family to France, and with the exception of his attendance in the House of Commons, he resided for eight years at Paris, where his house was the resort of some of the most distinguished literary and political characters. His ardent

feelings in the cause of liberty, particularly on the occasion of the late French invasion in Spain, at last gave such offence to the government, that Mr Hutchinson received an order to quit France, in consequence of which he returned with his family to England. Mr Hutchinson continued to divide his time between Parliament, his fireside, and the society of a few friends, among whom he was loved and respected as he deserved. His constitution had ever been remarkably good, and his cheerful disposition and active and temperate habits promised a long life. But in the summer of 1825 his health began suddenly to decline. Change of air was ordered, and he removed to Brighton, where he appeared to derive benefit; but, unfortunately, the same total disregard to every personal consideration, which formed the distinguishing feature of his character, induced him (contrary to the advice of his physicians and the entreaties of his friends) to attend Parliament, where some bills were in progress of commercial importance to his constituents. This effort, so far beyond his strength, brought on a return of the most alarming symptoms. On the 26th of August, being then in the 60th year of his age, he breathed his last, surrounded by Mrs Hutchinson, his children, and their uncles, Lord Brandon and Mr Abraham Hutchinson. So calm was his death, that those objects of his affection remained for some time watching his countenance, unconscious that he had expired.

Such were the last moments of a man who was the personification of honour, humanity, and integrity. A more virtuous representative of the people never existed. To his friends and the afflicted family he has left behind, it will be one day a consolation to reflect on his honourable career, on his mind so candid, so disinterested, so pure, that it passed unsullied through the world. Faithful in friendship, of unaffected but most

gentlemanly and attractive manners, he was rather reserved in general society, but in the circle of his family and intimate friends, no man was more animated, indeed playful. He was a most affectionate father, and employed much of his leisure hours in the instruction of his children, for whose education he made the greatest sacrifices. The whole of his fortune had been settled on his only son by his former marriage, and with a character generous and disinterested as his, and a hand "open as day to melting charity," to save money was impossible. But could he have bequeathed to his children the riches of the earth, they would have been less truly valuable than the example of his life, and the impressive lesson of his death.

THE RIGHT REV. CHARLES MONGAN
WARBURTON, D.D. LORD BISHOP
OF CLOYNE.

ON the 9th of August, at Cloyne Palace, the Right Rev. Charles Mongan Warburton, aged 71.

We have seen it stated that the original name of the prelate was Mongan; that he was the son of a poor road-way piper in a little village in the north of Ireland; that he was a Roman Catholic, and intended for the priesthood; that, while upon the Continent, whither he had been sent to study in one of those charitable institutions endowed for the education of Roman Catholic priests, before the building of Maynooth College, he was thrown by accident into the society of the Earl of Moira; and that, obtaining that nobleman's favour, he was induced to change his destination from the Roman to the Protestant church. Still under the patronage of Lord Moira, he was, after taking holy orders, appointed chaplain to a regiment in North America, where he married his first wife a lady particularly recommended be

his noble patron. That lady dying soon afterwards, he married his second wife (now his widow), upon which occasion he took the name of Warburton. Secure in the road to wealth and promotion, he became Dean of Armagh, afterwards Bishop of Limerick, and ultimately Bishop of Cloyne. The latter bishopric, the best in the south of Ireland, both as to profit and honour, is said to be worth L.7000 a-year. At Limerick, Dr Warburton was much esteemed for his liberal and courteous manners, and his family held there the first rank in society. His translation to the see of Cloyne produced an addition of L.3000 a-year to his revenue. The accumulation of wealth appears to have been a grand object with the Bishop. At Limerick, from its comparatively gay and expensive society, he was not allowed to indulge that propensity; but from the hour of his arrival at Cloyne, which is a retired situation, he continued rapidly to increase his fortune. He is understood to have left L.120,000 amongst his children, three sons, and one daughter; one of whom is a colonel in the army, another a major, another in the church, and the daughter married to Archdeacon Maunsel, at Limerick. About twelve months ago, the Bishop experienced, in the death of a favourite daughter, a calamity from the effects of which he never fully recovered. Miss Selina Warburton, who died of a decline, brought on, as it is believed, by a misplaced affection, was a particularly amiable and benevolent young woman. Her father allowed her the interest of L.25,000, her promised fortune, almost every shilling of which she expended in relieving the wants of the distressed. Her remains were carried to the grave amidst the lamentations of the numerous objects of her bounty; and the whole parish mourned for her as for a public benefactress.

That Dr Warburton should have been devotedly attached to such a daughter is not surprising. From the day of her death he broke in health and spirits; his frequent practice was to visit the grave where she rested; his last instructions were, that he should be laid by her side. About a week before his death he came into the church, and paused for some moments in painful silence over the last home of the departed. He marked out the spot where he was soon to lie, pointed to it with his finger, exclaiming, "There, there!" raised his hand to the wall immediately over it, and appeared to trace with mournful bitterness of heart, the epitaph that would probably record his virtues and his honours. He then slowly passed away, with his eyes directed to the earth, as though he had taken a last, farewell of humanity, and entered into a solemn contract with the grave. That very day his disorder increased, he went to his bed of death, and in a week afterwards he was borne to his last home!

CARL MARIA FREYHERR VON WEBER.

This celebrated composer was born 16th of December 1786, at Eutin, a small town in Holstein, and was at an early age distinguished for an attachment to the fine arts, particularly painting and music. His father, who was a man of property, encouraged these predilections by the assistance of a liberal education, and at the age of ten years placed his son under the tuition of ~~meusener, a professor of~~ burghausen. It is to this master that Weber is said to have been indebted for the energy, distinctness, and execution, which distinguished his performance upon the piano-forte. During the following years, he was instructed at

Saltzburg by Michael Haydn, the brother of the celebrated genius of that name; and afterwards at Munich by Valesi in singing, and by Kalcher in the theory of music and the art of composition.

In 1798 he published his first work, consisting of six fugues, in four parts, all of them distinguished for purity and correctness, and much praised in the *Musikalische Zeitung*, or musical Gazette, a German periodical. Whilst at Munich he is said to have pursued his studies with indefatigable perseverance, giving himself up to operatic music, that branch of the art which he preferred. Under the tuition of Kalcher, he wrote an opera called "*Die Macht der Liebe und des Weins*," (the power of Love and Wine,) a Mass, and several other pieces, all which were, however, destroyed without being submitted to the public.

In the year 1799, Sennfelder first practised the art of lithography at Munich. The youthful and ardent Weber, whose love of painting and the studies connected with it, had only given way to the stronger passion for music, imagined that by the construction of some new machinery he could render the invention more worthy of attention. Before the introduction of the art by Sennfelder, Weber had turned his attention to the subject; but music had of late so entirely engrossed his thoughts, that the study had been laid aside. The success of Sennfelder roused him to new exertions, and after many unsuccessful attempts he at length completed the model of a machine, by means of which he hoped to throw the invention of Sennfelder into the shade. Weber's father, whose kind disposition never permitted him to oppose his son's inclination, immediately removed to Freiburgh in Saxony, where the materials necessary for lithographical work were to be had in abundance; and the thoughtful and imagi-

native Weber, in the thirteenth year of his age, constructed his new machinery, and commenced the world as an engraver upon stone. Music was forgotten—composition was studied no longer; he entered with ardour upon his new occupation, and the world was on the point of obtaining perhaps a bad engraver in exchange for an admirable musician. But lithography was a pursuit too tedious, too mechanical, to detain his fine spirit long; the zeal with which he at first applied to it soon abated, his former occupations were found more congenial to his taste, and a few months beheld lithography deserted, and the study of composition resumed with a vigour which soon compensated for the time he had lost. The first fruits of his renewed study was an opera called "*Des Waldmädchen*," (the Girl of the Wood,) which was produced in November 1800, and received with great applause at Vienna, Prague, and Petersburgh.

About this time an article in the *Musikalische Zeitung*, excited in the young composer the idea of writing in an entirely new style, and of reviving the use of the ancient musical instruments which were then nearly forgotten. With this view he composed, in 1801, at Saltzburg, the opera of "*Peter Schmoll und seine Nachbarn*" (Peter Schmoll and his Neighbours). This opera failed upon representation. The style was new and extraordinary, and did not please upon a first performance; but the overture was afterwards revised and published, and is considered a very striking composition. Michael Haydn, in a letter wherein he makes mention of this opera, says, "As far as I may pretend to judge, I most truly and candidly say, that this opera not only possesses great power and effect, but is composed according to the strict rules of counterpoint. To spirit and liveliness the composer has added a high degree of delicacy, and the music is moreove-

perfectly suited to the words." A testimony so encouraging from such a man, was almost sufficient to counterbalance the want of success.

Defeated, but not discouraged, Weber still persevered in the study of his favourite art with undiminished ardour. In the year 1802 he made a professional tour to Leipzig, Hamburg, and Holstein, and during that time his principal occupation was to collect all publications on the theory of music. The study of these works, whilst it increased his knowledge of the art, did not satisfy his inquiries: he was not one who assented to propositions without investigation: he doubted the correctness of the principles upon which most of his predecessors had acted, and recommenced the study of harmony from its very elements, with the view of constructing an entirely new system, in which only such rules of the old masters as were confirmed by his own reflections should be retained. The work entitled, "Vogler 12 Chorale," by Sebastian Bach, analysed by C. M. Von Weber, which was published in 1802, may be considered the fruit of those researches, and is equally interesting and instructive.

In 1803 we find him, for the first time, entirely left to himself in the great musical world of Vienna, in the midst of Haydn, the Abbé Vogler, Stadler, &c. He was at this time sixteen years of age; but instead of being drawn away from his art by the amusements of this gay city, he placed himself under the Abbé Vogler, and spent his time in earnest and unabated application. The Abbé, charmed with a youth whose whole soul seemed engaged in the study of the art which they both professed, received him with the greatest kindness, and assisted his labours by freely communicating the result of his reflection and experience. Under Vogler's advice he reluctantly forbore exerting his talent in the com-

position of extensive works, and for two years devoted himself entirely to study. During this time he analysed the compositions of all the great masters, and completed his musical education. The only works which he published during his residence at Vienna, were a set of variations, and Vogler's opera of "Samori," arranged for the piano-forte.

In 1805, whilst at Vienna, although then only eighteen years of age, he received an invitation to proceed to Breslau in the character of Maestro di Cappella, which he accepted, and remained there about a year. During that time he formed an entirely new orchestra and corps of singers, which furnished him with a favourable opportunity of improving himself in the knowledge of effect. The only work of consequence which he composed during his Silesian visit, was an opera written by Rhode, and called "Kübezah!," *i. e.* Number Nip, of which the ill-famed mountain sprite furnished the subject.

The Prussian war, which broke out in 1806, obliged him to quit Breslau, and he accordingly entered into the service of Eugene, Duke of Wirtemberg, with whom he removed to Carlsruhe. There he remained for four years, during which time he wrote two symphonies, several concertos, and various pieces for wind instruments. He also composed his opera of "Silvana," a recast of "Des Waldmädchen;" a cantata, "Der erste Ton" (The first Sound); some overtures for a grand orchestra, and a great many solo pieces for the piano-forte.

In 1810 he set out on another professional tour. He remained some time at Frankfort, Munich, and Berlin; at all which places his operas were performed with much success, and his concerts well attended. In the course of this tour he visited the Abbé Vogler, and with the assistance of his knowledge and experience, composed the

opera of "Abon Hassan," which was produced at Darmstadt, in 1810, with great success.

From 1813 to 1816 he was director of the opera of Prague. His labours in that capacity are represented to have been unceasing : he found confusion and mismanagement ; he left order and regularity. Whilst there, he composed an opera called " Preciosa, or the Gipsy Girl," and his great cantata, " Kampf und Sieg " (Battle and Victory), in honour of the battle of Waterloo. This composition has lately been performed in London, and, in the judgment of musicians, is of itself sufficient to establish Weber's fame as a composer. When the object of his visit to Prague was accomplished, he again travelled through Germany without any permanent employment, although many profitable offers were made to him. At length he received an invitation from the King of Saxony to form a German opera at Dresden. The advancement of the national opera had been his chief study and delight ; such an invitation, therefore, harmonized too well with his own feelings to be neglected. He held the appointment of director of the German opera at Dresden until his death.

In 1821 he obtained the permission of his sovereign to produce the celebrated " Der Freischütz " at Berlin, where it was accordingly performed, for the first time, on the 21st of June in that year. The reception it met with was the most enthusiastic that can be imagined. Since the production of Mozart's *Zauberflöte*, no German opera has obtained such universal applause. Vienna, Dresden, Munich, and Stutgard, soon ratified the decision of the Berlin audience, and Weber was at once elevated above all his German contemporaries. The proud eminence which he had so ardently sought, and for which he had so laboriously, so indefatigably, studied, was at last obtained : the mu-

sical reputation of his country was vindicated, and his genius achieved the distinction it so richly merited.

His next opera was " Euryanthe," which was produced at Vienna on the 25th of October, 1823. The success it met with on its first representation was certainly not commensurate with the reputation he had obtained. The public expectation had been raised to an extravagant height by the celebrity of " Der Freischütz," and more was expected than mortal could achieve. Another cause of its bad success was the confusion and intricacy of the plot, which was written by Madame de Chazy. The opera has since been performed at Dresden, and most of the other theatres in Germany, with very great success. As a musical composition, it is admitted to have extraordinary merit, and is particularly distinguished by some very scientific recitatives.

The great success of " Der Freischütz " on the Continent induced the proprietors of the English Opera House to produce it upon their stage during the summer of 1824, when it was received with a success which must be fresh in the recollection of every one. It was performed night after night during the greater part of the season, and upon the opening of the winter theatres was produced at both of them. The unrivalled popularity of the music has continued to the present time ; its melodies are yet sung in our streets ; they have been manufactured into quadrille tunes, and published in every possible shape into which the ingenuity of our music-makers could distort them. It has also been produced at Paris with similar success.

The proprietors of Covent Garden Theatre, anxious to secure a musician of such unquestionable ability, invited him to visit England, and compose an opera for the English stage. The offer was accepted ; and early in the year

1826, although then labouring under a severe pulmonary affection, he arrived in London to fulfil his engagement. His first public appearance was on the 9th of March, when he met with a reception which did honour as well to the "mighty master," as to the people who had been delighted by the efforts of his genius. The modest and unassuming Weber shrunk from the enthusiastic plaudits with which he was received, and endeavoured to transfer to the performers the unanimous and overwhelming approbation which the audience intended for himself.

On the 12th of April, the new opera, which he had written expressly for performance in this country, was produced at Covent Garden Theatre, Weber himself presiding in the orchestra. The plot is founded upon an old French romance, the incidents of which furnished Wieland, the German poet, with the foundation of his poem "Oberon," which is also the title given to the new opera. The town had been long acquainted with the subject of the opera by report, and had been rendered still more familiar with it by the hurried production of an operatic drama of the same name, and founded upon the same story, at the rival theatre of Drury-Lane. The forestalling spirit in which this paltry act of jealousy had its origin was in some degree successful: the public felt no interest in the story, and the success of the opera depended in consequence almost entirely upon the music. The drama, which was written by Mr Planché, was as interesting as a story so slight could well be made, but was considered on the whole rather too trifling—too nearly approaching to the fairy-tale entertainments usually produced at Easter and Whitsuntide; overflowing audiences, however, pronounced the opera to be worthy of success, and their decision is consonant to that of the most eminent musicians. As a composition, it is distinguished by a great

display of science and knowledge of the art; but is not perhaps so much calculated for the ears of the unrefined as "Der Freischütz," as it does not contain so many of those simple melodies which usually succeed in rendering music popular.

As proofs of the great ability displayed in this opera, we would refer to the opening chorus of fairies; the air by Sir Huon in the grand scena in the first act; the scena by Reiza, and an admirable quartetto in the second act; a song by Fatima in the second and another in the third act; and a song by Sir Huon also in the third act. The choruses of fairies are all strikingly fanciful and characteristic, and the overture has a sprightliness well suited to the opera it precedes.

This opera closed Weber's labours, with the exception of a song from Moore's *Lalla Rookh*, commencing, "From Clindara's warbling fount I come;" to which he composed the music for Miss Stephens. This song was sung by her at a concert of Weber's on the 26th of May; the melody only had been committed to paper, and the composer, who presided at the piano-forte, supplied the accompaniments from recollection. Weber did not appear in public after this concert, with the exception of a few minutes on Miss Paton's benefit, which took place a day or two afterwards.

The disorder under which he laboured upon his arrival in England continued to increase, aided perhaps by the variations of our climate, and the excitement of composition; both of which, without doubt, operated very perniciously upon a frame already debilitated. He became anxious to return to his native country, in which he had left his wife and two children; and though his friends were apprehensive that a removal was impossible, Wednesday, the 7th of June, was fixed for the attempt. The prospect of a return home seemed to

animate him, and his continued cheerfulness banished the thought of any immediate danger; but Providence had destined that a foreign country should be honoured with the custody of his remains. On Friday, the 3d of June, the symptoms of his disorder assumed somewhat of an alarming appearance: he was obliged to keep his room, but still immediate dissolution was not apprehended. On Sunday evening, the 5th, he was left at eleven o'clock, in good spirits, and at seven the next morning was found dead upon his pillow, his head resting upon his hand, as though he had passed from life without a struggle.

On the 21st of June the remains of M. Von Weber were interred, with all the accustomed solemnity of the Roman Catholic Church, in the Chapel at Moorfields. The solemn requiem of Mozart was introduced into the service, and performed by the most celebrated English instrumental and vocal musicians, in a very grand and impressive manner.

In person, Weber was of the middle height, extremely thin, and of dark complexion. His countenance was strikingly intelligent, his face long and pale, his forehead remarkably high, his features were prominent, and his eyes dark and full. His look was one of calm, placid thought, added to in some degree by spectacles, which he usually wore on account of his shortness of sight. Thought, deep thought, is stamped upon all his compositions, and richly did his productions repay him for the labour bestowed upon them. The pale scholar, worn with toil,

——— "whose lamp at midnight hour
Is seen in some high lonely tower,"

may, in Weber's compositions, contemplate the reward of patient study, well directed, and chastened by the exercise of a severe judgment. The ridiculous profusion of ornament which passes for

improvement with some people, both in and out of the musical world, was ill suited to his correct taste. "I am sorry," said he to a singer, who was bestowing a great deal of embellishment upon one of his simple melodies, "I am sorry you give yourself so much trouble."—"Oh! it is no trouble," replied the polite lady, delighted with what she imagined a compliment.—"Indeed," replied Weber, "you trouble yourself very unnecessarily in singing so many notes that are not set down in the score." The manners of this great man were such as his character would indicate—quiet, simple, unobtruding. He did not, he could not condescend to those little artifices whereby the less distinguished endeavour to make themselves known. This fact, conjoined to the state of his health, may account for his visit to this country not having been so profitable as was anticipated. His performance on the piano-forte, and his direction of an orchestra, were distinguished by great spirit and earnestness; and besides his professional acquirements, he was intimately acquainted with general knowledge and polite literature.

In addition to the works we have already noticed, Weber composed a great number of pieces for various instruments, viz. sonatas, concertos, concertinos, and pot-pourries, for the piano-forte, the clarinet, the hautboy, bassoon, and violoncello. He likewise published some vocal compositions, in four parts, with accompaniments for the piano-forte: these deserve particular notice, and principally the one entitled "*Leyer und Schwerdt*," (the Lyre and the Sword). He was also the author of many articles in the *Leipzig Musikalische Zeitung* and the *Abend Zeitung*, or *Evening Gazette*, published at Dresden. We are also informed that he has left a work in manuscript, upon which he has been employed several years. It is entitled "*Kunstler Leben*"

(Lives of Artists), and contains a narrative of the principal events of his own life, with observations on great musical works, and on the most eminent ancient and modern composers. It is to be hoped this most interesting work will not be withheld from the public.

Of "Der Freischütz" it may be said, that it is but one of his works, and his best. We are not sure that it is his best; but if it is so, it is the very work to which we should refer, in forming an estimate of his merit. Milton is not judged by his *Paradise Regained*, nor Shakspeare by *Titus Andronicus*. The English public have become so well acquainted with this "Romantische Opera," (as it is well styled in the German,) that it would be superfluous to give a detailed account of it. It is full of the most extraordinary harmonies, and, beyond all, is an original and beautiful effort of genius. It is a rich storehouse, filled with passages of incontestable merit, and proves the composer to have been possessed of a mind imbued with the sublimest poetry. The overture is an appropriate introduction, characteristic of the subsequent story, and abounding with beauties which cannot be adequately described: to be felt, they must be heard. Music, like an extensive view, does not admit of an adequate verbal description. The same may be said of all Weber's overtures: they are all characteristic, all descriptive. The incantation scene is indeed the wild and wonderful in music. The unprecedented chorus of spirits with which it commences, the knowledge of effect displayed throughout, the skill in blending the various instruments, the original and very singular harmonies with which the whole scene is replete—all together form a musical exhibition essentially original and indescribable. But the great beauty, the surpassing excellence, of Weber's music, consists in the extraordinary manner in which he conveys to the ear the ac-

tions, the emotions, described in the words to which the notes are set. To produce authorities in support of this assertion, would be to quote every air in all his operas; but we cannot refrain from noticing the very singular manner in which it is effected in the introductory chorus of "Der Freischütz;" throughout the scena in which the well-known air of "Through the Forests" is introduced; and in the inimitable scena ed aria for the heroine in the second act. "Oberon" abounds with passages of a like nature. What, for instance, can equal the description in the air, "Oh! 'tis a glorious sight to see!" more especially that part of it which is set to the passage beginning, "Mourn, ye maidens of Palestine?" Can music do more than has been already achieved in these passages? They have never been equalled—they cannot be excelled. The quality to which we are now alluding, has frequently displayed itself on other occasions. When about to compose music for the song in *Lalla Rookh*, of which we have before made mention, his anxiety to do justice to the poet, by entering fully into the spirit of his words, was so great, that he would not engage in the composition until he had read the whole poem. The perusal gratified him extremely; he declared himself impressed with the highest admiration of Mr Moore's talents, and was extremely desirous of being introduced to him. Upon another occasion, when Miss Paton was complaining with reference to one of the airs in *Oberon*, "I do not know how it is, I never can do this as it should be."—"The reason is," replied Weber, "because you do not know the words." A still grander example of his feeling and judgment in this respect occurred during the performance of a hymn to the Deity. Some of the voices were in a high key. "Hush! hush!" exclaimed the genuine master; "hush! If you were in the presence of God, would you

speak loud?" Such trifling anecdotes are eminently characteristic, and pour-tray Weber as an amiable and excellent man, of correct feeling and matured judgment, wedded to the study of an art by the exercise of which he has rendered himself celebrated, and added greatly to the stock of public pleasure.

We cannot close this article without inserting some beautiful pathetic lines, dedicated by Mr Planché to the memory of this great man. They are valuable, not only considered as a poem, but also biographically, as throwing light upon Weber's manners and character. It is the testimony of one who knew him well, and will not be considered less valuable because it is couched in elegant language, and written with the feeling of a poet.

"Weep!—for the word is spoken :
Mourn!—for the knell hath knoll'd ;
The master chord is broken,
And the master hand is cold !
Romance hath lost her minstrel :
No more his magic strain
Shall throw a sweeter spell around
The legends of Almaïne !

"His fame had flown before him,
To many a foreign land ;
His lays were sung by ev'ry tongue,
And harp'd by ev'ry hand,
He came to cull fresh laurels,
But Fame was in their breath ;
And turn'd his march of triumph
Into a dirge of death !

"O, all who knew him, loved him !
For with his mighty mind,
He bore himself so meekly—
His heart it was so kind !
His wildly warbling melodies—
The storms that round them roll—
Are types of the simplicity
And grandeur of his soul.

"Though years of ceaseless suffering
Had worn him to a shade,
So patient was his spirit,
No wayward plaint he made.
E'en Death himself seem'd loath to scare
His victim, pure and mild,
And stole upon him gently,
As slumber o'er a child !

Weep!—for the word is spoken :
Mourn!—for the knell is knoll'd ;
The master chord is broken,
The master hand is cold !"

MR MICHAEL KELLY.

MR MICHAEL KELLY was a native of Dublin. At the time of his birth, his father, Mr Thomas Kelly, was master of the ceremonies at the castle, and a wine merchant of considerable reputation in Mary Street. His mother's maiden name was M'Cabe. She was of a very respectable family in the county of Westmeath, and brought her husband five thousand pounds as a marriage portion. They were both of them Roman Catholics.

Mr and Mrs Kelly were excessively fond of music, and sang with taste. All their children, fourteen in number, evinced musical capabilities ; and Michael, the eldest of them, was, at three years old, daily placed with the wine on his father's table, to entertain the company with Hawthorn's song in *Love in a Village*, "There was a Jolly Miller."

At the age of seven, little Michael began to learn music from a person of the name of Morland, a very dissipated man, but under whom nevertheless his improvement was so rapid, that before he had attained his ninth year, he could execute with precision and neatness Schober's sonatas, which were then all the fashion. He also possessed a soprano voice, on which his father was determined to bestow every possible cultivation. His first singing masters were Signor Passerini, a native of Bologna, and Signor Paretti, a *vero musico*, and the original Artaxerxes, when the opera of that name was first performed at Covent Garden. Some time after, our young musician was placed under Signor St Giorgio, who was engaged at the Rotunda. Surgeon Neale, who was one of his father's oldest and most intimate

friends, and who, independently of his skill in his profession, ranked as one of the first violin players of his time, also took great pains to improve him. He likewise received lessons on the piano-forte from Dr Cogan; and the celebrated Rauzzini, happening to be in Dublin, was highly pleased with him, and strongly advised his father to send him to Italy. His father accordingly determined that he should go to Naples.

Before his departure, however, an attempt being made by a Portuguese, to establish an Italian opera in Dublin, Michael's father was induced to allow him to take the part of the Count, in "La Buona Figliola." The house was crowded, and Michael received great applause. He had a powerful treble voice, pronounced Italian well, was tall for his age, and acquitted himself beyond the most sanguine expectations of his friends. The poverty of the Portuguese, however, caused his speculation to fail. "Cymon" being soon after revived at Crow Street Theatre, Michael Kelly played that character for three nights, and on the fourth, Lionel, in "Lionel and Clarissa," for his benefit, to a crowded house.

On the 1st of May 1779, he left Dublin for Naples. Although not fifteen, he had earned sufficient money to pay for his voyage to Italy, and for his maintenance and musical education for some time after his arrival there.

Having letters to Sir William Hamilton, Mr Kelly waited upon him at Naples, and was very kindly received. By Sir William, he was introduced to Fineroli, of whom he became a pupil, and under whom he laboured with assiduity. Accident, however, having thrown him in the way of Signor Giuseppe Avriale, who was allowed to be the greatest singer and musician of the day, that master thought so well of his abilities, that he offered to take him to Palermo, and instruct him without any

remuneration. This was too excellent a proposition to be declined.

On arriving at Palermo, Signor Avriale appropriated an apartment in his own house to his young pupil, who studied between five and six hours every day, and whose voice gradually fell into a tenor. He was received into all the musical parties of the place, and experienced great attention from a number of persons of rank and consequence.

Having completed his musical education under Signor Avriale, his kind and liberal master gave him a powerful recommendation to Campigli, the manager of the Pergola theatre in Florence, and a kind of agent to every Italian opera in Europe. On his arrival at Leghorn, he became acquainted with Signor and Signora Storace, was introduced by them to the British Consul, and several mercantile men of importance, and was induced to give a concert, which was productive of both applause and profit.

At Florence, Mr Kelly obtained, through the interest of Campigli, an engagement as first comic-tenor at the Teatro Nuovo. Having a letter of recommendation to Lord Cowper, he delivered it, was received with great kindness, invited to Lord and Lady Cowper's parties, and consequently soon became acquainted with everybody worth knowing in the place.

The opera in which Mr Kelly was to make his *début*, was "Il Francese in Italia." He was to play the Frenchman, and as it was a good part, was advised to take some lessons in acting; and for that purpose was introduced by Lord Cowper to Laschi, who had been the greatest actor of the day, but was at that time living in retirement. Laschi undertook to instruct him; and did it *con amore*.

The eventful night fixed for his appearance at length arrived. Mr Kelly was the first British male singer who had ever sung in Italy, or indeed on

the continent. His reception was most flattering; and he was encored in two of his songs and a duet. All the English in Florence made a point of being present; and among them the late Prentender.

While performing at Florence, Mr Kelly received a letter from Mr Linley, the father-in-law of Mr Sheridan, and joint patentee with him in Drury-Lane Theatre, offering him an engagement for five years as first singer; and he was on the point of writing his answer of acceptance, when he received another letter from Mr Linley, stating, that he must reluctantly decline entering into any such engagement, as he had received a prohibition from Mr Kelly's father, who even threatened to take legal means to prevent it, which Mr Kelly's being under age allowed him to do.

His engagement at Florence having terminated, Mr Kelly obtained an engagement for the Teatro Saint Moise, at Venice, as first tenor singer in the comic opera. On his arrival there he found, to his great mortification and dismay, that the manager, being unable to make the deposit required by the senate, had decamped. In a few days, however, he met, by great good fortune, with La Signora Benini, a name well known all over Italy, as that of the first comic singer and actress of the day. She told him that she was going to set off soon for Germany, being engaged as prima buffa for the autumn and carnival at Gratz, the capital of Styria; that she had that morning received a letter from the manager, requesting her to engage some one capable of filling the place of first tenor singer, and that, if he chose to go, she would give him a seat in her carriage, and pay his expenses. Mr Kelly, of course, accepted the offer with great delight.

At Gratz resided a number of Irish officers, among whom were Generals Dillon, Dalton, and Kavenah, who did all in their power to befriend their coun-

tryman; but independently of them, the applause which he received on his first appearance, which was in "La vera Costanza," greatly exceeded his expectations. He afterwards performed the Prince in Gretry's opera of "Selima and Azor." In the midst, however, of a most successful career, Mr Kelly caught a dreadful cold, which confined him to his bed, and deprived his voice of all power, or rather of all intonation. When he attempted to sing, his voice was so sharp as to be near a note above the instruments; and although he could distinguish the monstrous difference, he could not by any effort correct it. He was obliged to give up singing at the theatre, and was completely wretched. His complaint baffled the skill of all the faculty in Gratz, and he was advised to return to the mild and genial air of Italy, as affording him the only chance of recovering his voice.

Half heart-broken, he took a melancholy leave of all his kind and dear friends, and set off on his return to Venice. Having gradually regained his voice, he made an engagement as tenor singer with the manager of the theatre at Brescia, who was in Venice, forming a company to open with a comic opera at the approaching fair there, which is one of the greatest in Italy. The Painter, in the opera of "Il Pittore Parigino," was the character assigned to Mr Kelly, and in which he gave great satisfaction. The proprietor of the theatre, however, having made certain amatory proposals to La Ortobella, the beautiful prima donna of the company, which she rejected, became jealous of Mr Kelly, and threatened him with assassination; in consequence of which some of Mr Kelly's friends, who knew the deadly and implacable character of the man, advised him to withdraw himself privately from Brescia, and repair to Verona, which he accordingly did.

At Verona Mr Kelly gave a concert,

the receipts of which were very satisfactory to him ; and, as good fortune never comes alone, he received a letter the next morning from Signor Giani, the manager of Treviso, offering him an engagement for six weeks, which he accepted ; and while there, concluded an engagement for four months to perform at Count Pepoli's private theatre at Venice, with La Signora Teresa de Petris, reputed to be the greatest dilettante singer in Europe. Before his departure, however, Mr Kelly visited Parma, where the archduchess treated him with marked kindness and condescension.

The performances at Count Pepoli's private theatre at Venice were brilliantly attended. In the course of them Mr Kelly was sent for by Count Durazzo, the Austrian ambassador, who had been directed by his Imperial master to collect a company of Italian singers for a comic opera to be given at the court of Vienna. As soon as his engagement at Venice terminated, he concluded an engagement for a year with Count Durazzo, and repaired to Vienna.

Vienna, Mr Kelly found a most delightful residence. His reception was highly gratifying. The Emperor, Joseph II., accompanied by his brother, Maximilian, the Archbishop of Cologne, were present at the performance, and evinced their approbation by the applause they bestowed. At that time, the court of Vienna was perhaps the most brilliant in Europe. The theatre, which forms part of the royal palace, was crowded with a blaze of beauty and fashion. All ranks of society were doatingly fond of music, and most of them perfectly understood the science. Mr Kelly was fortunate enough to obtain introductions to the best society ; his salary amply supplied his wants and wishes, and the public received him well whenever he appeared on the stage. While at Vienna, Mr Kelly went and spent three days with Haydn, at Eisen-

stadt, the palace of Prince Esterhazy ; and afterwards was introduced to that prodigy of genius, Mozart ; an event which he considered as one of the greatest gratifications of his musical life. Mozart conferred on Mr Kelly what the latter deemed a high compliment. Mr Kelly had composed a little melody to Metastasio's canzonetta "Grazie agl'inganni tuori," which was a great favourite wherever he sang it. It was very simple, but it pleased Mozart ; and he composed some very beautiful variations to it.

During Mr Kelly's residence at Vienna, L'Abbate Casti, the celebrated author of the *Animali Parlanti*, received the Emperor's commands, expressed in the shape of wishes, to write an opera ; for which the no less celebrated Paesiello was to compose the music. When this drama, which was called "Il Re Teodoro," was completed, Casti declared that there was no person in the company at Vienna (not otherwise employed in the opera) capable of playing the character of Gafferio, the King's secretary ; written avowedly as a satire on General Paoli, and drawn with a masterly hand. It was decided, therefore, by the directors of the theatre, to send immediately to Venice, to engage Signor Blasi, at any price, to come and play it. In the interim, however, Casti happened to hear Mr Kelly, at a private party, sing a canzonetta, in imitation of the tremulous voice and extraordinary gesture and shake of the head of an old miser of the name of Varesi, living at Vienna ; and immediately declared that he was the very man to act Gafferio. The opera was brought out ; Mr Kelly played Gafferio ; overflowing houses bore testimony to the merits of the piece ; and the Emperor was so delighted with Mr Kelly's performance, that he immediately increased his salary.

The following whimsical anecdote, which we relate in Mr Kelly's own

words, while it shows the foppery, excusable enough, into which youth and the applause that he everywhere met with had betrayed him, exhibits, in a manner highly honourable to his character, his good temper and good sense :

"At this period of my life I was rather vain, and very fond of fine clothes ; indeed my greatest expense was the decoration of my precious person. I wore every evening full dress embroidered coats, either gold, silver, or silk. I wore two watches, (as was the custom of the country,) and a diamond ring on each of my little fingers. Thus decked out, I had not of course the least appearance of a Paddy. While sitting one evening in the Milan coffee-house, reading the Vienna Gazette, two gentlemen entered, and seated themselves opposite to me to take their coffee. One of them said to the other, with a most implacable Irish brogue, 'Arrah, blood and thunder, *luke* at that fellow sitting opposite to us (meaning me) ; did you ever see such a jack-daw ?'—'Really,' answered his companion, (who I perceived was an Englishman,) 'the fellow does not seem to be on bad terms with himself.'—'Look at his long lace ruffles,' said my countryman ; 'I suppose he wears ruffles to mark his gentility.'—I continued reading my gazette, but when the critique on my long lace ruffles was ended, I laid down the paper, and tucked them up under the cuffs of my coat ; not looking at the gentlemen, or seeming to take any notice of them.—'But now do *luke*,' continued the persevering brogue-neer ; 'what a display he is making of his rings ; I suppose he thinks he will dazzle our eyes a bit.'—Upon this, I deliberately took off my rings, and put them into my pocket ; at the same time, fixing a steady look at my critics, I told them in English, that 'if there were any other part of my dress at all disagreeable to them, I should have the greatest pleasure in altering it in any

way they might suggest.'—The Irishman (improbable as it may appear) blushed ; and the Englishman said, 'He hoped I would not feel an offence where none was meant.'—I said, 'Certainly not ;' and, to prove my sincerity, requested them to take part of a bowl of punch, and drink our sovereign King George's health, and towards our better acquaintance ; and thus, in despite of lace ruffles and diamond rings, we introduced ourselves to one another. My Irish friend, I found, was a Doctor O'Rourke, from the county of Down, who had only the day before arrived from Prague, where he had been for many years a medical practitioner ; and in my new English acquaintance, I had the pleasure to find the eccentric walking Stewart, so named from having walked almost all over the world ; and whose pedestrian exploits were universally spoken of."

A number of foreign princes, among whom were the Duc de Deux Ponts, the Elector of Bavaria, &c. having come to visit the Emperor, the latter signified his wish to have two grand serious operas, both the composition of Chevalier Gluck,—"*L'Iphigenia*, in *Tauride*," and "*L'Alceste*," produced under the direction of the composer. In the former piece Gluck cast Mr Kelly for Pylades, and instructed him himself in the part.

Soon afterwards, Mozart's "*Nozze di Figaro*" was brought out. Its success is known to every one. Of all who performed in it on its first representation, Mr Kelly was the last survivor.

Mr Kelly having received a letter from his father in Dublin, stating that his mother was in a declining state of health, and that it was her earnest wish that he should return to Dublin, if only for a few months, asked leave of absence for six months, for that purpose, of the emperor. His Majesty graciously ordered him to take leave for twelve months, adding, that his salary should

be continued for that period ; and giving him permission to accept of any engagement in London that he might consider beneficial.

A dispute, followed by mutual blows, in which Mr Kelly was unavoidably involved with two Austrian noblemen, one of whom suspected him of having supplanted him in the affections of a lady of rank, was brought under the cognizance of the Emperor, who dismissed the offenders from the army. On the next appearance of Mr Kelly on the stage, the plaudits of the audience testified their approbation of his conduct.

In the first week of February 1787, Mr Kelly quitted Vienna, with a heart full of grief and gratitude ; and after various adventures, embarked at Boulogne, landed at Dover, and reached London, for the first time in his life, on the 18th of March.

Having agreed with Mr Linley, for the remainder of the season at Drury Lane, Mr Kelly made his *début*, in the part of Lionel, on Friday the 20th of April 1787, and was most favourably received. His next character was that of Young Meadows, in " Love in a Village." Daly, the patentee of the Theatre Royal in Crow Street, sent over to Mr Kelly an offer to perform at his theatre with Mrs Crouch for twelve nights, which was accepted.

During the summer of this year, the grand commemoration of Handel, at which Mr Kelly assisted, took place in Westminster Abbey.

Soon after, Mr Kelly received the melancholy news of his poor mother's death. Anxious, however, to see his father and family, he set off for Dublin on the 8th of June, having previously entered into an engagement with the proprietors of Drury Lane for the ensuing season, stipulating not to perform more than three times a-week. His father and he were of course delighted to see each other. On the 22d of June,

Mr Kelly made his first appearance at Dublin, in Lionel, to a crowded house. His reception was highly gratifying ; and, during his stay, he passed many days in the delightful and hospitable society of numerous and kind friends.

From Dublin Mr Kelly and Mrs Crouch proceeded to York, where they had been engaged by the eccentric Tate Wilkinson, to perform during the race week ; after which they played four nights at Leeds, and another four at Wakefield.

In September, Mr Kelly returned to his duties at Drury-Lane. When his twelvemonth's leave of absence from Vienna had expired, he wrote to Prince Rosenburg a respectful letter, requesting him to lay before his Majesty the Emperor, his humble duty and grateful thanks for the many bounties bestowed on him ; but adding, that his father's state of health induced him to remain in England. There were, however, other reasons for his not returning to Vienna, more potent than filial duty.

In the summer of 1788, Mr Kelly went to Liverpool, Manchester, Chester, and Birmingham, in company with Mrs Crouch, and they reaped a plentiful harvest. Returning to Drury Lane, Mr Kelly appeared as Ferdinand, in " The Tempest," and subsequently as Lord William, in Cobb's new opera of " The Haunted Tower," which was played for fifty nights. He was also engaged by the noble directors of the Ancient Concerts, as principal tenor. The concerts were then held in Tottenham Street, and their late majesties and the royal family were constant attendants.

In the summer of 1789, Mr Kelly and Mrs Crouch visited Dublin, Cork, Limerick, and Liverpool, and had a pleasant and profitable campaign. In the month of October, there was a grand musical festival at Norwich, at which Mr Kelly was the principal tenor singer.

In August, 1790, Mr Kelly, accompanied by Mr and Mrs Crouch, visited Paris. On their way, they stopped a few days at Margate. Some ladies of rank were making a collection for a poor girl who had been deprived by an accident of the use of her limbs, and was reduced to the greatest distress. Kelly proposed to Mrs Crouch, that they should get up the Beggar's Opera, at the Margate theatre, for the benefit of the distressed girl. In this benevolent scheme they were joined by Mr Johnstone, familiarly called Jack Johnstone; the theatre was crowded, and the receipts, with various liberal presents, were invested in an annuity, which produced the object of this active kindness a comfortable subsistence for the remainder of her life.

At Paris, the party remained six weeks; saw everything worth seeing, and went every night to one of the theatres. Having fully satisfied their curiosity, they returned in safety to England.

In the summer and autumn of 1791, Mr Kelly assisted at the musical festivals of York and Newcastle, and performed on several days at York.

The next season, the Drury-Lane company occupied the King's theatre, until the new Drury-Lane theatre could be completed for them. On Mr Kelly's recommending the piece to Mr Sheridan, "Cymon" was brought out, the character of Cymon by Mr Kelly. The Cupid, on this occasion, and who was selected for the purpose by Mr Kelly, was Edmund Kean, whose genius has since rendered him so deservedly celebrated.

In the summer of 1792, Mr Kelly went to Paris, to see what he could pick up in the way of dramatic novelty for Drury-Lane. It was a period of most fearful interest in that city. Mr Kelly witnessed the bringing back of the King and Queen of France, after

they had been thwarted in their attempt to escape.

On returning to England, Mr Kelly immediately repaired to Oxford, at the musical festival of which he was engaged to sing. He afterwards, in company with Mrs Crouch, (who, a short time before, had separated from her husband,) visited Worcester and Birmingham, and returned to London for the opening of the winter theatrical season.

Early in 1793, Mr Sheridan (who had entered into an arrangement with Mr Taylor, the proprietor of the Opera House, to carry on Italian operas twice a-week) appointed Mr Kelly and Signor Storace joint directors of the Italian opera. In the summer and autumn of the same year, Mr Kelly and Mrs Crouch fulfilled engagements at Birmingham, Manchester, Chester, Shrewsbury, Worcester, Liverpool, and Dublin.

At the first representation of "Lo-doiska" at the new Drury-Lane theatre, Mr Kelly and Mrs Crouch had nearly become the victims of an accident. In the last scene, when Mrs Crouch was in the burning castle, the wind blew the flames close to her; but still she had sufficient fortitude not to move from her situation. Seeing her in such peril, Mr Kelly ran up the bridge, which was at a great height from the ground, towards the tower, in order to rescue her. Just as he was quitting the platform, a carpenter's plane suddenly withdrew one of its supporters. Down Mr Kelly fell; and at the same moment the fiery tower, in which was Mrs Crouch, sank, with a violent crash; and she screamed with terror. Providentially, Mr Kelly was not hurt by his fall, and catching Mrs Crouch in his arms, scarcely knowing what he was doing, he carried her to the front of the stage, a considerable distance. The applause was loud and

continued. In fact, had the scene been rehearsed as it happened, it could not have produced a greater effect; and ever after Mr Kelly bore Mrs Crouch to the front of the stage in a similar manner.

On the 2d of July a new musical piece was produced, entitled, "The glorious First of June," written by Mr Cobb, for the benefit of the widows of the brave men who fell on that day. Mr Kelly and Signor Storace gave it some new songs. Mr Kelly had to represent the character of Frederick; and as he was much employed in writing the music, he begged Mr Sheridan (who contributed many speeches to the piece) to make as short a part for him, and with as little speaking as possible. Mr Sheridan assured him he would. In the scene in which Frederick came on to sing, "When in war on the ocean we meet the proud foe," there was a cottage in the distance, at which, the stage direction said, Mr Kelly was to look earnestly for a moment or two; and the line which he had then to speak was this:—

"There stands my Louisa's cottage; she must be either in it, or out of it."

The song began immediately, and not another word was there in the whole part. This sublime and solitary speech produced a loud laugh from the audience. When the piece was over, Mr Sheridan came into the green-room, and complimented Mr Kelly on his quickness, and on his being so perfect in his part, "which," the wit added, "considering the short time you had to study it, was truly astonishing!"

During the Leith races, Mr Kelly was engaged to play at Edinburgh, and having good introductions, spent his time there very pleasantly. He afterwards made the tour of the English lakes; and then performed for a few nights at Lancaster, and subsequently at Birmingham.

Madame Banti, the next season, took for her benefit at the opera, Gluck's grand serious opera of "Alceste." Mr Taylor and Madame Banti made a request to Mr Sheridan to give Mr Kelly permission to act the principal part in the opera, which he had so often performed at Vienna, under the tuition of the great composer. Permission having been granted, the opera made so great a hit, that Mr Taylor, with the consent of Mr Sheridan, engaged Mr Kelly for twenty nights. At this period, and indeed for many years, Mr Kelly was honoured with the particular notice of his late Grace of Queensberry.

Mr Kelly's first appearance in England, as a composer, was in February, 1797, when was produced an interesting musical entertainment, called, "A Friend in Need," written by Prince Hoare, which met with universal approbation. He also composed the music for Monk Lewis's "Castle Spectre." For the same author, Mr Kelly, at various subsequent periods, composed the music of "Adalmorn the Outlaw," "The Wood Demon," "Venoni," "Adelgitha," and "One o' Clock." Having received the commands of his present Majesty, then Prince of Wales, to compose a simple ballad for him, Mr Kelly applied to his friend Lewis to write the words, which he did; and the song became very popular.

The success of the "Castle Spectre" gave rise to the drama of "Blue Beard." The programme of the French romance of that name Mr Kelly had brought with him from France; the piece was written by Mr George Colman, and the music was composed by Mr Kelly. It was performed in January 1798. Mr Kelly played Selim. At the end of the piece, when Blue Beard is slain by Selim, a ludicrous scene took place. Where Blue Beard sank under the stage, a skeleton was to rise, which, when

seen by the audience, was to sink again ; but not one inch would the skeleton descend. Mr Kelly, who had just been killing Blue Beard, totally forgetting where he was, ran up with his drawn sabre, and pummelled the poor skeleton's head with all his might, vociferating until its disappearance, loud enough to be heard by the whole house, "D—n you ! d—n you ! why don't you go down ?" The audience were roaring with laughter ; but good-naturedly appeared to enter into the feelings of an infuriated composer. The next day the piece was curtailed ; the scenery and machinery were perfect ; and on its second representation Blue Beard was received with unqualified approbation.

In the succeeding summer, Mr Kelly accepted an engagement for part of the season at the Little Theatre in the Haymarket, in order to introduce a pupil of Mrs Crouch's, a Miss Griffiths, who played Polly to Mr Kelly's Macheath, and Clarissa to his Lionel.

The next musical piece that Mr Kelly produced at Drury Lane was in conjunction with Mr Dussek the celebrated piano-forte player. Mr Dussek composed the serious part of it, Mr Kelly the comic. The piece, which was from the French, was entitled, "The Captive of Spilburg." It was ably adapted to the English stage by Prince Hoare, and had a run of seventeen nights.

The great sums of money produced to the theatre by "Blue Beard," induced the Drury Lane proprietors to prevail on Mr Colman to write a musical afterpiece, to vie with it in splendour. This piece was entitled "Feudal Times ; or the Banquet Gallery." Mr Kelly composed the whole of the music for it. Although performed for many nights, it was by no means so successful as "Blue Beard."

In May 1799, Mr Sheridan's celebrated play of "Pizarro" was produ-

ced ; the whole of the music in which was composed by Mr Kelly. The procrastination of the author rendered this a very painful task to Mr Kelly.

"Of Age To-morrow," by Mr T. Dibdin, was the next dramatic work for which Mr Kelly wrote the whole of the music, with the exception of the opening piece, which he selected from Paisiello. This entertainment proved very productive to the treasury. There was one ballad in it, sung by Miss Decamp, (now Mrs Charles Kemble,) "No, my love, no," which became the most popular song of the day, and was to be heard at the corner of every street for a long time afterwards.

The 15th of May 1800 was a memorable evening at Drury Lane Theatre. Cibber's comedy of "She would and she would not," had been commanded by their late Majesties. On the King's entering the box prepared for him, a man in the front row of the pit stood up on the bench, and fired a pistol at him. The whole audience was of course in an uproar ; but his Majesty exhibited the utmost coolness. On hearing the report of the pistol, he retired a pace or two, stopped, stood firmly for an instant, then came forward to the front of the box, put his opera-glass to his eye, and looked round the house without the smallest appearance of alarm or discomposure. The Lord Chamberlain, who was in attendance behind his Majesty, apprehensive of some further attack, respectfully requested him to retire from the box into an adjoining room. The King's answer was, "Sir, you discompose me as well as yourself ; I shall not stir one step." The Queen and Princesses then entered the box, ignorant of the cause of the hubbub. Hadfield, the ruffian who committed the crime, was seized by the performers in the orchestra, and dragged over its spikes into the music room, which was under the stage ; the audience from all parts vociferating,

"Bring forward the assassin, bring him on the stage; show him, show him." Mr Kelly was at that moment on the stage; the Queen called him to her, and asked him if the man was in custody. Mr Kelly told her Majesty that he was; and then came forward and addressed the audience, assuring them that the culprit was in safe keeping, and was at that time undergoing an examination. This information produced tranquillity. "God save the King" was called for, and received with shouts of applause, waving of hats, &c. At the end of the play it was again demanded by the whole house; and while the company were singing it, a paper was sent to Mr Kelly by Mr Sheridan, with a verse which he had written on the spur of the moment. It was handed by Mrs Jordan to Mr Kelly, who sang it, although with an agitated voice; and it was three times repeated, with the most rapturous approbation.

On the 29th of April, 1800, Miss Baillie's "*De Montfort*," for which Mr Kelly composed the music, was produced at Drury Lane Theatre; but after a few nights it was withdrawn. A similar want of success attended a musical afterpiece called "*The Gipsy Prince*," written for the Haymarket Theatre by Mr Thomas Moore, for which Mr Kelly composed the music, and which was performed in July, 1801.

In the same year, Mr Kelly entered into a new kind of speculation. At the corner of Market Lane, (now no longer in existence,) in Pall Mall, there was an old house, almost falling, the lease of which had sixteen years to run, and was to be sold. It was suggested to Mr Kelly, that he might make his fortune by buying the lease of that house, putting it into thorough repair, and making a large shop in it, in which to sell his own compositions. It was likewise observed to him, that he might have a door opening to the stage of the Opera House; and that all the sub-

scribers to the Opera, for the great convenience of having a private passage, and easy access to their carriages and sedan-chairs, would most willingly subscribe two guineas a-year each, which would amply reimburse him for the expense. Mr Kelly accordingly purchased the lease of the house for five hundred guineas. Mr Kelly spared no cost, stocked the shop well with other music besides his own, engaged shopmen, porters, &c., and opened it to the public on the 1st of January, 1802. The crowds of people who came to purchase music, by way (as they said) of bringing Mr Kelly good luck, were immense. When the subscription was opened for the opera visitors to get an easy access to their carriages, the lady-subscribers declared that it was delightful to have such an accommodation, and most of them immediately put down their *names*, but very few of them ever put down their *money*, although there was a considerable current expense for fires, lighting, and extra servants. Mr Kelly soon began to suspect that he was not fitted for what he had undertaken, and that his occupations at Drury Lane, Covent Garden, and the Haymarket, both as performer and as composer, besides being manager of the Italian Opera, and musical director at Drury Lane, and the Little Theatre in the Haymarket, would have been quite enough to engage his mind, without entering into a business which required unremitting attention paid to it from morning till night: but he was involved too deeply to retract.

A musical afterpiece, entitled "*Urania*," written by the Hon. William Spencer, and the music of which was the joint production of his brother, the Hon. John Spencer, and Mr Kelly, was performed at Drury Lane Theatre, in January, 1802, and was received with uncommon applause. In the course of the same season, Mrs Billington returned to England, after an ab-

sence of several years, and was engaged at Drury Lane and Covent Garden, to appear a certain number of nights at each Theatre. She went through her various operatical characters, in all of which Mr Kelly performed with her. When Mrs Billington had her benefit at Drury Lane, the opera of "Algonah" was brought forward, the drama by Mr Cobb, the music by Mr Kelly. It was successful.

Availing himself of the short peace, Mr Kelly, accompanied by Viganoni, in the summer of 1802, visited Paris, where he met with a number of his friends, and enjoyed himself very much. While there, in conjunction with another gentleman, he engaged the celebrated Winter to compose three Italian operas and three grand ballets for our opera. Mr Kelly agreed to pay half Winter's remuneration for the exclusive right of publishing the music; and had he not been pillaged, that arrangement alone would have been a fortune to him.

At the commencement of the next season, the burletta of "Midas" was revived at Drury Lane Theatre, and met with unqualified approbation. Mr Kelly was Apollo. Before that period, the simple and pretty melody of "Pray, Goody, please to moderate the rancour of your tongue," had been always sung in a quick jig time. It struck Mr Kelly that the air would be better slower, and he, therefore, contrary to the opinion of Mr Kemble, and of all the performers in the piece, as well as of the whole band in the orchestra, resolved to sing it in the "andantino grazioso" style, and to add a repetition of the last bars of the air. The result was, that during the run of the piece, "Pray, Goody," never failed to obtain a loud and unanimous encore.—Some time after, "A House to be sold" was brought out at Drury Lane, and received with much applause. Mr Kelly acted in it the manager of an Italian opera.—The next

novelty was an historical musical drama, called the "Hero of the North;" the music of which Mr Kelly composed; and he also performed in it. It was received with distinguished applause.—In July, Colman produced his "Love laughs at Locksmiths," for which Mr Kelly composed the music. The piece was strongly cast, and ran the whole of the season.

During the theatrical recess in London, Mrs Billington and Mr Kelly performed together, with great success, at Edinburgh and Liverpool.

Mr Kelly's next musical production at Drury Lane, was "Cinderella; or, the Glass Slipper." It was produced in January, 1804, and was performed, during its first season, fifty-one nights.

Mr Kelly had returned his income to the Commissioners of the Income Tax at L.500, which they did not think sufficient, and sent him a summons to appear before them on the next day of meeting. The following amusing conversation took place on the occasion:—

"So, Mr Kelly," said one of the Commissioners, "you have returned your income to us at L.500? You must have a very mean opinion of our understandings, sir, to think that you could induce us to receive such a return; when we are aware that your income, from your various professional engagements, must amount to twice or thrice that sum."

"Sir," said Mr Kelly; "I am free to confess I have erred in my return; but vanity is the cause, and vanity is the badge of all my tribe. I have returned myself as having L.500 per annum, when, in fact, I have not five hundred pence of certain income."

"Pray, sir," asked the Commissioner, "are you not stage-manager of the Opera House?"

"Yes, sir," answered Mr Kelly, "but there is not even a nominal sala-

ry attached to that office. I perform its duties to gratify my love of music."

"Well, but, Mr Kelly," continued his examiner, "you teach?"

"I do, sir," replied Mr Kelly; "but I have no pupils."

"I think," observed another gentleman who had not spoken before, "that you are an oratorio and concert singer?"

"You are quite right," said Mr Kelly to his new antagonist; "but I have no engagement."

"Well, but at all events," remarked Mr Kelly's first inquisitor, "you have a very good salary at Drury Lane?"

"A very good one, indeed, sir," answered Mr Kelly; "but then it is never paid."

"But you have always a fine benefit, sir?" said the other, who seemed to know something of theatricals.

"Always, sir," was Mr Kelly's reply; "but the expenses attending it are very great; and whatever profit remains after defraying them, is mortgaged to liquidate debts incurred by building my saloon. The fact is, sir, I am at present very like St George's Hospital—supported by voluntary contributions."

This unaffected *exposé* made the commissioners laugh, and the affair ended by their receiving Mr Kelly's return. The story is not very dissimilar to one told of Horne Tooke.

In the year 1804, the Opera House was opened by Mr Francis Goold, who had been a school-fellow of Mr Kelly's at the Rev. Dr Burke's academy in Dublin. From the day of Mr Goold's entering on the management, until the day of his death, Mr Kelly was his stage-manager, and his confidential friend and adviser. On the 3d of July in the same year, Mr Kelly produced a musical piece, called the "Hunter of the Alps," which ran thirty nights. In August, a piece was performed at the Haymarket, written by Colman, and called the "Gay Deceivers;" for which Mr Kelly compo-

sed the music. He also composed two songs, which were introduced into Tobin's admirable play of the "Honey-moon."

In January, 1805, "We fly by Night," by Colman, was performed at Covent Garden; and in May, "Youth, Love, and Folly," by Mr Dimond, was performed for Mr Kelly's benefit. For both these pieces Mr Kelly composed the whole of the music.

His management at the Opera this season was going on triumphantly. With Winter as a composer, Billington, Grassini, Viganoni, and Braham, as singers, and D'Egville as the ballet-master, success appeared certain. On account, however, of the length of the operas and ballets, and the difficulty of prevailing on the lady-singers to be ready to begin in time, the operas on Saturdays seldom finished till after twelve o'clock. The Bishop of London sent to inform Mr Kelly, that if the curtain did not drop before the twelfth hour, the license should be taken away, and the house shut up. Against his fiat there was no appeal, and many nights Mr Kelly was obliged to order the dropping of the curtain in the midst of an interesting scene in the ballet. For some time this passed off without notice; but on Saturday, the 15th of June, the demon of discord suddenly appeared in this hitherto undisturbed region of harmony. The curtain fell before twelve o'clock, just as Des Hayez and Parisot were dancing a popular pas-de-deux. An universal outcry of "Raise the curtain! Finish the ballet!" resounded from all parts of the house. Hissing, hooting, yelling (in which most of the ladies of quality joined) commenced. D'Egville was called for, and asked why he allowed the curtain to drop before the conclusion of the ballet. He affirmed that he had directions from Mr Kelly to do so. Mr Kelly was then summoned on the stage, and received a volley of hisses, yellings, &c.

He stood it all firmly; but, at last, thinking to appease the tumult, he informed the audience that an order had been received from the Bishop of London to conclude the performance before midnight. Some person from the third tier of boxes, who appeared to be a principal spokesman, called out, "You know, Kelly, that you are telling a lie." Mr Kelly turned round very coolly, and looking up at the box whence the lie came, said, "You are at a very convenient distance: come down on the stage, and use that language again, if you dare!" This retort was received by the audience with a loud burst of applause, and a universal cry of "Bravo, bravo, Kelly! well replied! Turn that fellow out of the boxes!" The gentleman left the boxes; but did not think proper to make his appearance on the stage. This was a lucky turn for Kelly, but did not satisfy the rioters; for, finding their mandate to draw up the curtain and finish the ballet disregarded, they threw all the chairs out of the boxes into the pit, tore up the benches, destroyed the chandeliers, jumped into the orchestra, smashed the piano-forte, and broke all the instruments of the poor unoffending performers. Having achieved deeds so worthy of a polished nation, they quitted the scene of their despoliation with shouts of victory; but there was a finale to the drama which they did not expect. Mr Gould identified some of the ringleaders, and commenced actions against them for damages, which it cost them many hundreds of pounds to compromise.

The autumn of the year 1805 was deeply embittered to Mr Kelly by the illness and death of Mrs Crouch. The latter event so overpowered him, that he obtained leave of absence from Drury Lane for two months, which time he spent at Wroxton Abbey with the late Lord Guildford, from whom he experienced the greatest consolation and kindness.

His furlough having expired, Mr Kelly took his departure for London, and played Henry in "The Deserter." On his first appearance, he was received with kind and sympathetic applause by his friends and the audience; but he took a thorough dislike to the stage, and resolved to quit it as soon as he had made some necessary arrangements to enable him to do so. In the interim, he composed the music to the splendid spectacle of "The Forty Thieves," produced at Drury Lane, in April, 1806, which had a very great run; and in the same season, in conjunction with Atwood, composed for Covent Garden an operatic play, called "Adrian and Orrilla."

In May, 1807, Mr Dimond's operatic piece, in two acts, called "The Young Hussar," was produced at Drury Lane Theatre. Mr Kelly composed the music to it. In the summer of the same year he accompanied Madame Catalani to Dublin, having been engaged by Mr Jones, the proprietor of the Dublin Theatre, to make up an Italian company for the Rotunda, and the Dublin Theatre. Mr Kelly had a hearty reception, both on the stage and in private, from his generous countrymen.

After spending a delightful and productive summer, Mr Kelly returned to London in September. In May, 1808, Mr Cumberland produced, at Drury Lane, a piece entitled "The Jew of Mogadore;" to which Mr Kelly composed the music. On the 13th of June he had "Semiramide," in which Madame Catalani performed, for his benefit; and on the 17th of June, 1808, he played in "No Song, no Supper;" which was his last appearance on the Drury Lane stage; where he had been the principal male singer for twenty years. With his characteristic modesty, however, Mr Kelly did not think himself of sufficient consequence to take a formal leave of the public. He then made an arrangement with Mr Sheridan to be musical

director of Drury Lane Theatre, and to continue stage-manager of the Opera House.

Some time previous to his retirement from Drury Lane stage, Mr Kelly had made Madame Catalani a promise to accompany her, for the second time, to Dublin; which he did in August, 1808. After performing six nights at Dublin, they performed six nights at Cork; a few nights at Limerick, and six more in Dublin. Mr Kelly returned to London in September.

On the 24th of February, 1809, Drury Lane Theatre was destroyed by fire. Mr Kelly, who had been dining with some friends in the neighbourhood, had the poignant grief not only of beholding the magnificent structure burning with merciless fury, but of knowing that all the scores of the operas which he had composed for the Theatre, the labour of many years, were then consuming.

In October, Mr Arnold brought out at the Lyceum a musical piece of his own writing, entitled, "The Jubilee." Mr Kelly composed the music, and it ran a number of nights. In the season of 1811, Mr Kelly composed the music for a musical drama, called "Gustavus Vasa," brought out at Covent Garden; another musical drama, called "The Peasant Boy," brought out at the Lyceum; a ballet of Des Hayes's production at the Opera House; and an historical play, called "The Royal Oak," performed at the Haymarket. The summer of that year Mr Kelly passed at Wroxton, with his kind friend, Lord Guildford, and joined in the private theatricals, which formed one of the amusements of that hospitable mansion. In autumn, Mr Kelly proceeded to Dublin, to fulfil an engagement he had made with the manager of that theatre. On the 5th of September, 1811, he made his last appearance on any stage, on the stage where he had made his first appearance, when a boy, in 1779.

When Mr Kelly reached Shrewsbury, on his way from Holyhead to London, happening to take up a London Newspaper, he read in the Gazette these portentous words: "Bankrupt; Michael Kelly, of Pall-Mall, music-seller." An announcement so unexpected confounded him. He instantly wrote to his principal man of business, who had the management of all his money transactions, to know by whom the docket was struck, but received no answer. It afterwards turned out, that this person, who had been recommended to Mr Kelly by a particular friend, and who, when he came into Mr Kelly's employ, was a poor man, having amply stocked himself with everything, *sans cérémonie*, took himself abroad, and "ne'er was heard of more." When Mr Kelly arrived in town, he found that the docket had been struck against him by a particular friend of this person's, on account of a dishonoured bill. Mr Kelly's solicitor having looked into his affairs, and having found that he was much more deeply involved than he was aware of, advised him, though his property ought to have paid all demands three times over, and though he might have superseded the commission, to let the bankruptcy take its course. He did so; and the stock in his saloon was disposed of for one-tenth of its value!

In November, 1812, a musical piece called "Illusion," written by Mr Arnold, for which Mr Kelly composed the music, was brought out very successfully at Drury Lane. In January, 1813, Mr Coleridge's tragedy of "Remorse" was produced. There were some musical passages in it which Mr Kelly composed; and on the beauty of which he was highly complimented by the poet. In the summer of the same year, Mr Kelly, although seriously indisposed, went to Dublin, being subpoenaed in a law-suit against a music-seller there, who had pirated a number of his compositions. After his return

to England, he spent a month with Lord Guildford, at Wroxton. The day before he took his departure, his ever-kind patron said to him: "My dear Mic, do not be in such a hurry to leave us; stay here a fortnight longer; stay a month; or (at the same time shaking him by the hand) stay here for ever. When we were riding the other day near the entrance of the park, you were admiring a spot of ground, and saying how happy you should be to spend the remainder of your days there; and so you shall, if you keep in the same mind. You have no family; I will build you a cottage on that very spot, where you shall not have the trouble of going up and down stairs; you shall have a garden, and a paddock for a pony and a cow attached to it. Remember this is a serious promise; and whenever you quit public life, I will fulfil it. We will be neighbours, Mic; my wife shall sing with you, my chaplain shall drink with you, and I will talk with you." It is impossible to read this generous speech without emotion; and it is difficult to determine whether it is more honourable to the individual by whom, or to the individual to whom, it was made. Mr Kelly was deeply affected by it; but death soon after deprived him of his truly noble friend.

During the next summer, Mr Kelly made a party, and once more visited Paris. He spent some time there very agreeably, but was much annoyed by gout in the latter part of his stay. He speedily recovered, however, at Brighton; where he remained until summoned to Drury Lane, to get up and superintend the music in *Macbeth*, which was to be produced with uncommon splendour for Mr Kean. In the choruses, Mr Kelly had all the principal vocal performers; who (with a numerous list of choral singers, male and female) took infinite pains to execute those charming productions; and the result was in the highest degree

gratifying. In March, "*The Unknown Guest*," an opera by Mr Arnold, was produced. Mr Kelly composed the music for it.

In the year 1818, Mr Kelly composed the music to a piece called "*The Bride of Abydos*;" and in 1820 to another piece, called "*Abudah*;" and his last production was a musical entertainment, called "*The Lady and the Devil*," for Drury Lane. Between the years 1797 and 1821, he composed for different Theatres sixty-two pieces; being by far the greatest number produced by any one English composer, Mr Bishop excepted.

For some years before his death, the gout almost deprived Mr Kelly of locomotion. Both his parents had been sufferers from the same disorder; in him, therefore, it was constitutional, and not his age's penance for his youth's excess. His general health, however, was good, and his spirits were always excellent. "One superior solace," he observes in his *Reminiscences*, "under my worst visitations, I have indeed possessed, which yet remains untold. With some, perhaps, an avowal of it may draw upon me an imputation of pride, or vanity; but if I know myself, gratitude is paramount with me to either of those passions; and all liberal spirits, I trust, will excuse the apparent boast. Let me therefore declare, without equivocation or disguise, that the chief and dearest comfort remaining to me in this life, is the proud consciousness that I am honoured by the patronage of my beloved Monarch. Even from my earliest arrival in these realms, where George the Fourth now reigns in peace and glory, it was my enviable fortune to be distinguished by the royal favour; and the humble individual who, in 1787, was noticed by the Prince of Wales, is still remembered, in 1825, by the King."

Mr Kelly had the rare talent of acquiring and preserving the good opinion

of every man with whom he became acquainted; not by sycophancy, but by cordiality of manners, a heartiness, a warmth, which convinced you, that to render you a service was a pleasure done to himself. He had (as has been seen) mixed much in the world, had travelled a great deal, had been familiar with the titled and the rich; and he might have been vain, had he not estimated this familiarity at its just value; and felt that whatever honour the patronage of rank and wealth confers upon talent, is, at least, compensated by the instruction or amusement which talent conveys to wealth and rank. He was full of liveliness, and a pleasant companion at all times; even during those visitations, (and they were not "few and far between") when fretfulness and despondency might have been expected to be the companions of suffering and of pain. It is not surprising, therefore, that he should be induced, early in the year 1826, to publish two volumes of his "Reminiscences." From that work have been derived the principal facts comprehended in the preceding memoir. But besides the occurrences personal to Mr Kelly, (to which we have of course confined our selection,) his book contains a vast fund of entertaining anecdote respecting almost every person of distinction and notoriety contemporary with the writer; and it may justly be characterised as the most amusing production of the kind that has for many years issued from the press.

Mr Kelly's death took place at Margate, on Monday the 9th of October, 1826. His body was conveyed to London, for interment in the churchyard of St Paul's, Covent Garden; and was attended to the grave by a numerous train of private and professional friends.

JOHN FARQUHAR, ESQ.

On the 6th of July, in the 76th year of his age, John Farquhar, Esq. This

gentleman was born at Aberdeen. At a very early period of his life he proceeded to India, in the Company's service, as a cadet. Soon after his arrival, he received in an engagement a severe wound in his knee, from which he suffered considerably through life, as he could not be prevailed upon to submit to amputation. He did not remain long in the military service, but became a free merchant. Chemistry, however, was his favourite pursuit. When Lord Cornwallis was appointed to be Governor-General, he solicited Mr Farquhar, from the knowledge he had of his science and integrity, to superintend the gunpowder manufactory, which had previously been conducted on defective principles. It was in this office, by the most honest and disinterested conduct, that he laid the foundation of his great fortune. Wealth and distinction rapidly poured in upon him; and after a series of years he returned to England, the master of a splendid fortune. It is said, that on his landing at Gravesend he walked to London to save coach-hire. His first visit was to his banker's. Covered with dust and dirt, with clothes not worth a guinea, he presented himself at the counter, and asked to see Mr Coutts. Regarding him as some poor petitioner, the clerks allowed him to wait, until Mr Coutts, accidentally passing through, recognised his Indian customer. Mr Farquhar requested five pounds, and took his leave. He then settled in Upper Baker Street, Portman Square, where his house was distinguished by its dingy appearance, uncleared windows, and general neglect. An old woman was his sole attendant; and his own apartment, to which a brush or broom was never applied, was kept sacred even from her approach. Early in life, perhaps from necessity, he had been led to adopt the most parsimonious habits; and when he arrived at a princely fortune, he

could not break through the unfortunate trammels which lessened the respectability of a life that might otherwise have terminated so as to insure him no mean station in the temple of fame. Slovenly in his dress, and disagreeable at his meals, he was yet courteous and affable in his manners. He was deeply read in the classics; and, though adverse through life to writing and figures, when prevailed upon to pen a letter or a note, his style was found to be at once terse, elegant, and condensed. In the more difficult sciences he had scarcely his equal; as a mathematician, chemist, and mechanic, few could contend with him.

Mr Farquhar's peculiarities were great and numerous. He was fond of frequenting sales. The auctioneer was always happy to see him; and it is more than probable that his fortune suffered much from this *penchant*, and from the implicit confidence which he was accustomed to repose in others.

After his return to England, he became a partner in the great agency house in the city, of Basset, Farquhar, and Co.; he purchased the late Mr Whitbread's share in the brewery; and he bought Fonthill Abbey for the sum of 33,000*l*. His religious opinions are thought to have been influenced by an admiration of the purity of the lives and moral principles of the Brahmins. It is said that he offered to appropriate 100,000*l*. to found a college in Aberdeen, on an enlarged plan of education, with a reservation on points of religion. To this, however, the sanction of the legislature could not be procured, and the plan was consequently dropped.

His property, vested in the funds and otherwise, is supposed to be not less than a million and a half sterling. Not having left a will, his immense fortune will be divided amongst seven nephews and nieces; of whom are, Lady Pole, wife of Sir William Pole; Mr Fraser, a gentleman well known

at the bar; Mr George Mortimer, a merchant in London; and Mr James Mortimer and his sisters, residing in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen.

Mr Farquhar died suddenly of apoplexy, at his house in the New Road, opposite the Regent's Park. He had taken an airing in his carriage on the preceding day, returned home about seven in the evening, went to bed at his usual hour, between ten and eleven, in good health; and, when the servant took breakfast to him in the bed-room, at eight o'clock in the morning, he appeared to have died without a struggle; for his eyes and mouth were closed, and his countenance was tranquil. His remains were interred at St John's Wood Chapel, on the 13th of July, attended by several of his relatives, and a numerous body of respectable friends.

Mr Farquhar had been elected a member of the new Parliament for Portarlington.

MR CHARLES INCLEDON.

On February 11th, at Worcester, Mr Charles Incledon. He was born in Cornwall, and was the son of a respectable medical gentleman. Displaying an early taste for music, he was, at the age of eight years, placed on the choir of Exeter Cathedral, under the care of Jackson, the celebrated composer. Here he remained six or seven years, when a truant disposition induced him, in 1779, to enter on board the Formidable man-of-war, of 98 guns, under the command of Captain (since Rear-Admiral) Cleland. On the West India station he changed his ship, and served on board the *Raisonnable*, of 64 guns, then commanded by Lord Hervey, where his vocal powers and sprightliness of character endeared him to the officers and men. In this ship he attracted the notice of Admiral Pigot, commander of the fleet, who frequently sent for Incledon, and

sang catches and glees with him and Admiral Hughes. He returned to England in 1783, when Admiral Pigot, Lord Mulgrave, and Lord Hervey, gave him letters of recommendation to Mr Sheridan and the late Mr Colman. The manager, however, was blind to his merits, and Incledon, determined to try his talents on the stage, joined Collins's company at Southampton, where his first theatrical essay was as Alphonso, in the *Castle of Andalusia*. Here he continued upwards of a year, when he was engaged at Bath, where he attracted much of the public attention, and obtained the patronage of Rauzzini, who not only took him under his tuition, but introduced him in his concerts.

He was a great favourite at the Noblemen's Catch Club, which he assisted in establishing; and Dr Harrington, the eminent physician, was his particular friend.

Having again applied in vain at the London theatres, he accepted an engagement at Vauxhall; but in the ensuing winter, (October, 1790,) made his first appearance at Covent Garden, as Dermot, in the *Poor Soldier*, with so much success as to obtain a permanent situation, on liberal terms. For many seasons Incledon sang with great eclat at the Lent Oratorios; he frequently visited Ireland, where no singer, not even Mrs Billington, was ever more caressed; and subsequently to the termination of his regular engagements at the London theatres, he crossed the Atlantic, and made a vocal tour through a great part of the United States, though, as is said, without any solid pecuniary advantage. Of late years somewhat neglected, perhaps, for newer favourites in the metropolis, his engagements were chiefly of a provincial nature. Styling himself "*The Wandering Melodist*," he was accustomed to give a vocal entertainment of his own, which was ge-

nerally received with great favour. He was, we believe, in the arrangement of one of these plans at Worcester, when, about the commencement of 1826, he was suddenly seized with a paralytic affection, which, in the course of a few weeks, led to the termination of his existence. He had been married three times; and he has a son engaged in agricultural pursuits, now or recently living in the neighbourhood of Bury St Edmund's, Suffolk.

Incledon, though a convivial, was by no means an improvident man. Before his second union he settled all his fortune, the result of his professional exertions for many years, on the children of the first marriage, nor was he wanting in industry to create a new fortune. It is true, his farewell benefits in London were a small tax on his friends—for he was fond of "*more last words*," but they must have been saving indeed who begrudged the price of a ticket to so old a favourite as Charles Incledon, who, a few months ago, took his leave on that very stage where he first made his debut forty years before,—in the Southampton Theatre.

Incledon's voice was of extraordinary power, both in the natural and falsetto. The former from A to G, a compass of about fourteen notes, was full and open, neither partaking of the reed nor the string, and sent forth without the smallest artifice; and such was its ductility, that when he sung pianissimo, it retained its original ductility. His falsetto, which he could use from D to E or F, or about ten notes, was rich, sweet, and brilliant, though we certainly are of opinion that music, like beauty, is, "*when unadorned, adorned the most.*"

Though Incledon knew little of music as a science, yet such was the excellence of his voice and ear, that he at one time became a favourite with the public. He excelled in the pure

and energetic English ballad, such as "Black-eyed Susan," and "The Storm," the bold and cheering hunting-song, or the love-song of Shield, breathing the chaste simple grace of genuine English melody.

MR EDWARD KNIGHT.

This celebrated comedian died on February 21, at his house in Great Queen street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, after a severe illness of several months, aged 52. He was born at Birmingham in 1774, and was intended by his friends for an artist: but having, at an early period, a penchant for the stage, on the death of the person to whom he was articled, he made his first appearance at Newcastle-under-Linc, as Hob, in the farce of "Hob in the Well;" but so astounding was his reception, that it quite disconcerted him; and, unable to go on with the character, he ran off the stage, and it was performed by another. His ardour was for some time checked by this mishap, and he resumed the pencil for another year; but the ruling passion was strong. He ventured in a more obscure place, Raithier in North Wales, again played Hob, and was successful. After strolling about some time, he was engaged by Mr Nunns, of the Stafford company. In that town he married a daughter of Mr Clewes, a wine-merchant.

His next step to fame was owing merely to the whim of some merrily-disposed wag, who was willing to raise a laugh at his expense. One night at Uttoxeter, after having raved through the parts of Arno, Sylvester Daggerwood, and Lingo, he was agreeably surprised by a note requesting his attendance at the inn adjoining the theatre, and intimating that he would receive information for the improvement of his theatrical pursuits. Everything, of course, was neglected for this im-

portant interview. He flew to the inn on the wings of speed, and was immediately shown into a room, where he was very cordially received by an unknown, but grave-looking gentleman, whose inflexible steadiness of face could not give the least suspicion of a jest. After the usual compliments of the day, the stranger very politely assured him that he had received much pleasure from his performances, and was determined to put him into a situation where his talents might be shown to advantage. Mr Knight stammered forth his gratitude, and had all ears open for the reception of this important benefit. The stranger proceeded to inform him that his name was Philips, and that he was well known to Mr Tate Wilkinson, the manager of the York theatre. "Now, sir," he added, "you have only to make use of my name, which I fully authorize you to do, and you may rely upon being well received. Say that I have seen you on the stage, and declared my satisfaction at your performance." Mr Knight was, of course, much delighted, and expressed, in the most lively terms, his sense of this important obligation. The next morning he wrote a very polite letter to Mr Wilkinson, making the tender of his services, and not in the least doubting their acceptance, for the name of his new ally formed the most prominent feature in the letter. In a short time a very laconic epistle came from the York manager, that at once overthrew his splendid expectations. It was to this effect:—"Sir, I am not acquainted with any Mr Philips, except a rigid Quaker, and he is the last man in the world to recommend an actor to my theatre. I don't want you.—TATE WILKINSON."

This was certainly a mortifying repulse. His air-formed schemes at once melted into nothing; and the failure was so much the more painful,

as it was totally unexpected. In the bitterness of his anger, he wrote a second letter to the manager :—" Sir, I should as soon think of applying to a methodist parson to preach for my benefit, as to a Quaker to recommend me to Mr Wilkinson. I don't want to come. E. KNIGHT." This letter was too much in Mr Wilkinson's own peculiar style to meet with an unfavourable reception. Nothing, however, resulted from it at the time. A whole year rolled on with the Stafford company, at the end of which Mr Knight was agreeably surprised by a second letter from his former correspondent. In brevity and elegance it was nowise inferior to his former epistle, but the matter of it sounded much more sweetly to our hero's ears. The following is, to the best of our knowledge, a literal transcript :—" Mr Methodist Parson, I have a living that produces twenty-five shillings per week. Will you hold forth ? TATE WILKINSON."

This sudden change was not altogether owing to the preceding correspondence, but in part to the secession of Matthews, who had been engaged at the Haymarket. Nothing could have been more fortunate for Knight than this event ; for the manager, anxious to supply the loss of so useful a performer, engaged him some months before Mr Matthews actually left for London. Our hero was now in the meridian of his glory, when his happiness received a severe blow from the loss of a beloved wife, who died at the age of twenty-four, and left him burdened with the care of a small family. He had been married five years.—About a twelvemonth after, he was united secondly, in 1807, to Miss Susan Smith, sister of Mrs Bartley, and the then heroine of the York stage.

At York seven years passed away without any other material occurrence,

when he received proposals from Mr Wroughton, at that time stage-manager of Drury Lane, which, of course, were eagerly accepted.

On the destruction of Drury Lane Theatre by fire, many of the principal performers considered themselves as released from their treaties, and embarked in other adventures. Mr Knight was one of the few that had abilities to profit by this opportunity. On October 14, 1809, he made his first appearance at the Lyceum as Timothy Quaint, in the " The Soldier's Daughter," and Robin Roughhead, in " Fortune's Frolic." He was equally successful in Jerry Blossom, Sim, Spado, Trip, &c. and continued a favourite till illness compelled him to retire. His powers as a comic actor were certainly considerable. There was an odd quickness, and a certain droll play about every muscle in his face, that fully prepared the audience for the jest that was to follow. His Sim, in " Wild Oats," may be termed the most chaste and natural performance on the stage. On one occasion, in the exercise of his profession, Knight had a very narrow escape with his life. On the evening of Feb. 17, 1816, when performing with Miss Kelly, in the farce of " Modern Antiques," a maniac named Barnett fired a pistol at the lady, which had nearly given the gentleman his quietus.

In private life, Mr Knight's manners were domestic and methodical. He disliked convivial parties ; but he possessed that kindness and benevolence of heart, which reflect honour upon human nature. His remains were removed to a vault in Pancras new church, on the 27th of February, when, among the mourners, were Mr Elliston, Dr Pearson, Mr Carpue, Mr George Soane, Mr Grimaldi, senior, &c.

CHARLES MILLS, Esq.

On the 9th October, at Southampton, Charles Mills, Esq. aged 38. Whether considered as a chivalrous chronicler of past times, a man of general information, or an elegant and discriminating critic in Italian literature, Mr Mills stands confessedly in the first rank of authors. To treat of the death of such a man is at all times painful; but when to that is added the recollection of his friendship, the subject becomes doubly embittered. Dismissing, however, all thoughts but those of biographical impartiality from his mind, the writer of the present brief memoir, who was honoured for years with the friendship of Mr Mills, and knew him in his prouder days of health and happiness, will proceed without farther comment to his task.

Mr Charles Mills, the youngest son of the late Samuel Gillam Mills, a surgeon of eminence at Greenwich, was born in the year 1788. He was originally intended for the law, and was even articulated, with that view, to an attorney in Berners-Street; but his mind, vowed even from childhood to literary fame, like Hannibal to eternal enmity with the Romans, soon shook off the trammels of Coke, Littleton, and Blackstone, and gave itself up unreservedly to the belles-lettres. It was about the year 1819 that Mr Mills first appeared before the public as a historian; his imagination, previously inflamed by a long and close acquaintance with the magnificence of Oriental annals, longed with the usual restlessness of genius to find its level, and a "History of Muhammedanism" was the result. This work, though characterised by deep thought and learning, was yet imperfect in its construction; it was loose, sketchy, and indefinite; and accordingly, in his more matured composition, its author indirectly disclaim-

ed it. His History of the Crusades, which was his second publication, amply fulfilled all the promise shadowed forth in the first, and placed him high among modern historians. This work, taken up *con amore*, and executed with the spirit which an ardent love of the subject would naturally elicit, was no sooner published than its merits were appreciated. The condensed vigour of the style (in some favourite passages exuberant and stately as the language of Gibbon) was its chief recommendation with some; its strict fidelity with others; while all agreed in admiring the clear simplicity with which it was executed; this last was the result of Mr Mills' long-cherished habits of continuous and unbroken meditation. He first conceived a subject well in his mind, scrutinizing it in all its bearings with mathematical severity, and then, after having formed some particular opinion, brought all his immense mass of information to bear upon and justify that opinion, till the fabric grew under his hand a stately monument of intellect. Such a remark refers especially to his "Travels of Theodore Ducas, at the Revival of Letters and Art in Italy,"—a work of fiction, full fraught with learning, exhaustless in its variety and extent, yet applied with surprising ingenuity to its subject. The public, however, seemed to underrate Mr Mills as a commentator on Italian literature, and accordingly, notwithstanding the splendour of particular passages, such as the criticism on Dante, and the account of an interview with Ariosto, the work was comparatively unsuccessful. For a full year subsequent to its publication, our historian lay quietly on his oars, till induced by his respectable publishers (Longman and Co.) to undertake a work of gigantic magnitude, viz, no less than a history of Rome, from the earliest ages down to the reign of Augustus, an epoch at which

Gibbon commences. From some cause or other this work was dropped—notwithstanding that it was a desideratum in literature, inasmuch as the annals of early Rome are scattered in detached fragments over a library, and need condensation in one professed publication—and Mr Mills then directed his attention to his greatest work, “The History of Chivalry, or Knighthood and its Times.” This last had no sooner appeared than it was instantly successful; the first edition sold with almost the rapidity of a Scotch novel, and it was but a few months previous to his death that its author had completed his revision of a second. Whether the mental labour necessary to execute such a task, spread over so vast an extent of time, referring to so many kingdoms, and drawn from sources so difficult and obscure—whether this broke down a frame naturally delicate, we cannot take upon ourselves to say; but certain it is, that shortly after its completion Mr Mills’s health began visibly to decline. For a long time he struggled with his malady, still hoping that his constitution might be finally re-established; but all his expectations were vain; he grew daily worse, and was compelled as a last resource to leave London for Southampton; where, after getting a little better, like the last flickering glimmer of the lamp, his health soon afterwards decayed and brought him to the grave on Monday October 9th, 1826, at the early age of 38.

So died Charles Mills, a name, which, in one respect, as a historian—a deep, profound, eloquent historian—will perish only with our language. It remains for the public readers of his works to admire the author,—for his friends to love also the man. As a literary character, his mind was stored with an almost exhaustless variety of useful and ornamental knowledge. He was a profound divinity scholar, an

acute critic, had an admirably acquired taste in poetry, and was acquainted with most ancient and modern languages. He possessed also an elegant relish for the fine arts, and was no mean proficient in music, at least as far as judgment was concerned. With such varied acquirements, aided by a temperate sociality, and gentle kind-hearted address, of the purest yet most natural simplicity, it will readily be conceived how great a treat his conversation must have been. Unlike many deep habitual thinkers, Mr Mills’s mind in company was usually unclouded, alive to everything that was going forward; so that he was ever ready to take his share in the conversation, free from the too common abstractedness of genius. Nothing was too mean or too mighty for his contemplation; the striking expression of a poet, in whom Mr Mills could not fail to recognise a kindred intellect, that “the meanest flower that blows” could furnish him with endless food for thought, was particularly applicable to the subject of the present memoir, whose restless inquisitive mind, freed for ever from the coarse shackles of existence, now for the first time at rest, is perhaps continuing its speculations in a higher and more imaginative state of being.

JOHN PINKERTON, ESQ. F.S.A.,
PERTH.

On the 10th March, at Paris, where he had resided some years, John Pinkerton, Esq., aged 67. Mr Pinkerton claimed descent from an ancient family, seated at Pinkerton, near Dunbar. His grandfather was Walter, a worthy and honest yeoman at Dalsersf, who had a numerous family. As Presbyterians at that time abounded in the west of England, there was considerable intercourse between them and those of Scotland.

James Pinkerton, a son of Walter,

settled in Somersetshire, where, having acquired a moderate property as a dealer in hair, (an article, as wigs were generally worn, then much in request,) he returned to his native country about 1755, and married Mrs Bowie, (whose maiden name was Heron,) the widow of a respectable merchant at Edinburgh, who brought him an increase of fortune, and left three children. James, the eldest, joined the army as a volunteer, and was slain at the battle of Minden, his brother Robert succeeding to an estate in Lanarkshire, left by their father.

John Pinkerton, the youngest son, was born in Edinburgh, February 17, 1758. After acquiring the rudiments of education at a small school kept by an old woman at Grangegate Side, near that city, where was a house belonging to his mother, he was, in 1764, removed to the grammar school at Lanark, kept by Mr Thomson, who married the sister of the poet of that name.

Inheriting from his father a portion of hypochondriacism, young Pinkerton was always a diffident boy, and he neither entered into competition with his school-fellows in education, nor joined in their boisterous but healthy amusements. At school he was generally the second or third of his class; but nothing remarkable distinguished this period, except one incident:—Mr Thomson one day ordered the boys to translate a part of Livy into English; when he came to young Pinkerton's version, he read silently to himself, then, to the great surprise of the boys, walked quickly out of the school, but soon returned with a volume of Hooke's Roman History, in which the same part of Livy was translated. He read both aloud, and gave his decided opinion in favour of his disciple's translation, which not a little flattered his boyish vanity, and perhaps sowed in him the first seeds of authorship.

After being six years at school, the last year of which only was dedicated to the Greek, he returned to the house of his family near Edinburgh. His father having some dislike to University education, John was kept in a kind of solitary confinement at home; and this parent, being of a severe and morose disposition, his durance little tended to give much firmness to his nerves. An hour or two was passed every day in attending a French teacher; and, in his eagerness to attain this language, he had totally lost his Greek, and nearly his Latin also; but soon after, meeting with Rollin's Ancient History, and observing references to the original authors, he bought the History of Justinus, &c., and soon recovered his Latin so as to write, when he was about thirteen years of age, tolerable fragments in that language. He afterwards studied mathematics two or three years, under Mr Ewing, an able teacher at Edinburgh, and proceeded as far as the doctrine of infinities.

Intended for the profession of the law, young Pinkerton was articled to Mr Wm. Aytoun, an eminent writer to the signet, with whom he served a clerkship of five years. He did not, however, neglect the cultivation of his mind, and having felt the witchery of verse by reading Beattie's Minstrel, and other poems, he wrote an elegy, called *Craigmillar Castle*, which he dedicated to Dr Beattie. This production, which was published in 1776, was followed by the composition of one or two tragedies, but they were never printed.

In 1780, soon after the expiration of his clerkship, his father died; and being often disappointed in procuring uncommon books at Edinburgh, he visited London, where the size and extent of the booksellers' catalogues are said to have formed his sole motive for wishing to fix his residence. This determination was confirmed by the

bankruptcy of some merchants in Glasgow, who held about 1000*l.* of his father's money, all which was lost. He accordingly went to Scotland in the spring of 1781, took up the remaining sums lying in mercantile hands, and, returning to England, settled in the neighbourhood of London in the winter of that year.

In 1781, Mr Pinkerton published, in 8vo, "*Rimes*," as he peculiarly chose to designate some minor poems; and "*Hardyknute*, an Heroic Ballad, now first published complete [a Second Part being added]; with the other more approved Scottish Ballads, and some not hitherto made public, in the Tragic Style." To which were prefixed, "*Two Dissertations*: 1. On the Oral Tradition of Poetry; 2. On the Tragic Ballad;" small 8vo. In 1782, he published "*Two Dithyrambic Odes*: 1. On Enthusiasm; 2. To Laughter;" 4to; and "*Tales in Verse*," also in the same year.

From his boyish days Mr Pinkerton had been fond of collecting medals, minerals, and other curiosities; and having received from a lady in Scotland a rare coin of Constantine, on his Sarmatian victory, which she had taken as a farthing, he soon laid the foundation of a little collection, and used to read Addison's *Dialogues on Medals* with infinite delight. These pursuits led him to see the defects of common books on the subject, and he drew up a manual and tables for his own use, which afterwards grew to the excellent and complete "*Essay on Medals*," the first edition of which was published by Dodsley, in two octavo volumes, 1784. He was materially assisted in its completion by the late Mr Southgate of the British Museum, and Mr Douce. The third and last edition was edited by Mr Harwood.

In 1785, Mr Pinkerton surprised the literary world with a very extraordinary performance, entitled, "*Lectures on Literature*," under the assumed name of Robert Heron. In this work he depreciated the ancient authors, in a manner which called forth the indignation of the poet Cowper; and criticised the best of the moderns, with an air of assurance that could not have been warranted even by the most confirmed character for taste, learning, and judgment. He had also the vanity to recommend a new system of orthography, more fantastical and absurd, if possible, than that which his countryman, Mr Elphinstone, endeavoured with so much zeal to introduce. Unfortunately, too, it happened that the odium of the performance actually alighted on a countryman of his, whose name was in reality Robert Heron, and who was just then coming before the public as an author.* However, this book obtained for Mr P. an introduction to Horace Walpole, through whom he became acquainted with Gibbon the historian, who recommended him to the booksellers as a fit person to translate the "*English Monkish Historians*," a work which, had the proposal met with encouragement, might have tended to a more generally diffused knowledge of the history of the middle ages. On the death of his patron, the Earl of Orford, Mr Pinkerton sold a collection of his lordship's remarks, witticisms, and letters, to the proprietors of the *Monthly Magazine*, in which miscellany they appeared periodically, under the title of *Walpoliana*, and when exhausted, the whole were reprinted in two small volumes, with a portrait of that gifted nobleman.

In 1786, our second Chatterton issued two octavo volumes, entitled,

* Poor Heron was a man of extensive information, but little judgment; a respectable parliamentary reporter, but a bad writer. He was reduced, chiefly by improvidence, to great distress; and closed his life, about 15 or 16 years ago, within the walls of the Fever Institution.

"Ancient Scottish Poems, never before in Print, but now published from the [pretended] Manuscript Collections of Sir Richard Maitland of Lethington, Knight, Lord Privy Seal of Scotland, and a Senator of the College of Justice; comprising Pieces written from about 1420 till 1586. With large Notes and a Glossary." The manuscripts were feigned to have been discovered in the Pepysian Library at Cambridge.

In 1787, Mr Pinkerton published in 2 vols. 12mo, under the feigned name of H. Bennet, M.A., "The Treasury of Wit; being a methodical Selection of about Twelve Hundred of the best Apophthegms and Jest; from Books in several Languages;"—a compilation pronounced to be much superior to most of the kind. It was accompanied by many just and pertinent observations, in a discourse on wit and humour, considered under the four different heads, —Serious Wit, Comic Wit, Serious Humour, and Comic Humour. The same year produced, in one volume 8vo, his well-known "Dissertation on the Origin and Progress of the Scythians or Goths, being an Introduction to the Ancient and Modern History of Europe;" and though he figured afterward in many other walks of literature, the prejudices embalmed in that extraordinary production continued to the end to hold almost the undivided possession of his mind. He seriously believed that the Irish, the Scotch Highlanders, and the Welsh, the Bretons, and the Spanish Biscayans, are the only surviving descendants of the original population of Europe, and that in them, their features, their manners, their history, every philosophic eye may trace the unimproved and unimprovable savage, the Celt. He maintained in every company, that he was ready to drop his theory altogether the moment any one could point out to him a single person of intellectual eminence

sprung from an unadulterated line of Celtic ancestry. He used to appeal boldly to the History of Bulaw, in particular, asking what one GREAT MAN the Celtic races of Wales, Ireland, or Scotland, had yet contributed to the rolls of fame? And it must be owned that he had studied family genealogies so indefatigably, that it was no easy matter to refute him without preparation. If you mentioned Burke,— "What," said he, "a descendant of De Bourg? class that high Norman chivalry with the riff-raff of O's and Macs? Show me a great O, and I am done." He delighted to prove that the Scotch Highlanders had never had but a few great captains—such as Montrose, Dundee, the first Duke of Argyll—and these were all Goths;—the two first, Lowlanders; the last a Norman, a *de Campo bello*! The aversion he had for the Celtic name extended itself to every person and everything that had any connexion with the Celtic countries.

In 1789, the deceased author published, in 8vo, a collection of ancient Latin Lives of the Scottish Saints, a work which greatly tended to illustrate the early history of his native country. It is now a scarce volume, no more than one hundred copies of it having been printed. This was soon after followed by a new and greatly enlarged edition of his Essay on Medals, which has become the standard work for information on that interesting and useful subject. In the same fruitful year he published an edition of "The Bruce; or the History of Robert King of Scotland, written in Scottish verse, by John Barbour," 3 vols. 8vo.

In 1790, this prolific writer again put forth some of his numismatic researches, in "The Medallic History of England to the Revolution," 4to: and published "An Inquiry into the History of Scotland, preceding the reign of Malcolm III., or 1056; including

the authentic History of that Period ;" 2 vols. 8vo, (republished in 1795,) with some additional observations, containing replies to the various reviews, &c. In 1792, he edited three octavo volumes of " Scottish Poems, reprinted from scarce editions."

In 1793, Mr Pinkerton married Miss Burgess, of Odiham, Hants, sister to the present Bishop of Salisbury ; but the union was not happy, and the parties separated. The lady has been dead some years.

Our author's next important literary labours were in biography, he contributing the lives to " Iconographia Scotica, or Portraits of Illustrious Persons of Scotland, with Biographical Notes," 2 vols. 8vo, 1795—1797 ; and to the " Scottish Gallery, or Portraits of eminent Persons of Scotland, with their Characters," 8vo, 1799.

His talents were then directed to geography, and they produced a standard work in this branch of science. The " Modern Geography, digested on the new plan," appeared first in two quarto volumes, in 1802 ; a second edition, published in 1807, consists of three ; and there is an abridgement in a single octavo. In 1806, Mr Pinkerton travelled to the French capital, and on his return published his observations, under the title of " Recollections of Paris," 2 vols.

8vo. Subsequently he was employed in editing a " General Collection of Voyages and Travels," which was extended to nineteen volumes, quarto ; a " New Modern Atlas," in parts, both which works commenced in 1809. For a short time the Critical Review, with but little success, was under his superintendence.

Mr Pinkerton's last original work was " Petrology, or a Treatise on Rocks," 2 vols. 8vo, 1811 ; but in 1814, still pursuing his attacks on the Celts, he republished, in two octavo volumes, his " Inquiry into the History of Scotland," together with his " Dissertation on the Origin and Progress of the Scythians or Goths."

Mr Pinkerton had of late years resided almost entirely in Paris. His appearance was that of a very little and very thin old man, with a very small, sharp, yellow face, thickly pitted by the small-pox, and decked with a pair of green spectacles.

After this very detailed memoir, any lengthened character were needless. It will have been perceived that Mr Pinkerton was an eccentric, but highly industrious literary workman, and that his talents, though in some instances ill directed, were commensurate with undertakings of no ordinary rank in literature.

POETRY.

EXTRACTS FROM MOIR'S TRANSLATION OF SCHILLER'S WALLENSTEIN.

I. PEACE.

Max. Ay! 'tis ever so.
Ye start at everything of depth, and think
That ye are never safe but in the shallows.
Octavio (to Questenberg). Better to yield with a good grace, my
friend;

With him these arguments are unavailing.

Max. Ye call a spirit in the hour of need;
And when it rises, then ye shake and shudder!
With you th' uncommon and sublime must be
Done calmly, as a thing of course. But in
The field all is rapidity. The personal
Must influence—man's own eye behold. The leader
With every boon of Nature must be gifted,
Then let him live in their free exercise—
The oracle within—the living spirit—
Not musty books, and old forgotten forms—
Not mould'ring parchments—must he call to council.

Octavio. My son! despise not these old narrow forms.
Precious invaluable weights are they,
With which oppress'd mankind have overhung
The tyrannizing will of their oppressors:
For arbitrary power was ever terrible.
The way of order, though it lead through windings,
Is still the best. Right forward goes the lightning—
Straight cleaves the cannon-ball its murd'rous way—
Quick by the nearest course it gains its goal,
Destructive in its path and in its purpose.
My son! the peaceful track which men frequent,
The path where blessings most are scatter'd, follows
The river's course, the valley's gentle bendings,
Encompasses the corn-field and the vineyard;
Revering property's appointed bounds,
And leading slow, but surely, to the mark.

Quest. O, listen to thy father!—Unto him,
Who is at once a hero and a man!

Oct. It is the child of the camp that speaks in thee.
My son; a war of fifteen years hath nursed thee:
Peace thou hast never seen. There is a worth,

My son, beyond the worth of warrior :
 In war itself, the object is not war.
 The great, the rapid deeds of human power—
 The glory and the wonder of the moment—
 It is not these, alas ! that minister
 Lasting repose or happiness to man.
 Sudden the wandering soldier comes, and builds
 Of canvass his light town, and soon is heard
 The busy hum and movement of the crowd ;
 The market throngs, the roads and rivers near
 Are cover'd with their freight, and trade is busy.
 But, lo, some morrow dawns, and all is gone ;
 The tents are struck—the troop hath march'd away—
 Dead as a churchyard is the land around ;
 All desolate the trampled seedfield lies,
 And wasted is the harvest of the year.

Max. O, father, that the Emperor would make peace !
 This blood-stain'd laurel would I change with joy
 For the first violet of early Spring,
 The fragrant pledge of the reviving year.

Oct. How's this ? What is't so suddenly affects thee ?

Max. Peace I have never look'd upon, say'st thou ?
 Yes, I *have* look'd upon it, father—*now*,
 Even now, I come from thence. My journey led me
 Through lands unvisited by war. O, life,
 My father, life hath charms *we* know not of—
 We have but cruised along its barren coasts,
 Like some wild, wandering horde of lawless pirates,
 That, in their narrow, noisome vessel pent,
 On the rude ocean, with rude manners dwell ;
 Nought of the mainland knowing, but the bays,
 Where they may risk their predatory landing.
 The treasures, that within its peaceful vales
 The inner land conceals—of these—of these—
 Nought in our stormy circuit have we seen.

Oct. (*becoming attentive*). And has this journey shewn thee aught of these ?

Max. 'Twas the first leisure of my life. O, tell me,
 What is the end and object of the toil,
 The grinding toil, that wore my youth away,
 And left my heart uncheer'd and desolate,
 My spirit in its native barrenness ?
 The tumult and the clamour of the camp,
 The neigh of steeds, the brazen trumpet's braying :
 The dull monotonous routine of duty—
 Parade—command, give nothing to the heart,
 The longing heart, that gasps for nourishment.
 There is no soul in this unmeaning round,
 And life hath other hopes and other joys.

Oct. Much thou hast learnt, my son, on this short journey.

Max. O, blessed day ! when, at the last, the soldier
 Turns back to life, and is again a man ;

For the blithe route the banners are unfurl'd,
 And homeward beats the melting march of peace ;
 When every cap and helmet is bedeck'd
 With bows, the latest plunder of the fields ;
 The city's gates fly open of themselves—
 They need no longer the petard to burst them :
 The walls are circled with rejoicing thousands,
 With peaceful people greeting i' the air :
 Clear sounds from every tower the bell that peals
 The jocund vespers of the days of blood :
 From towns and villages comes streaming forth
 A shouting throng, with loving eagerness
 And importunity their march impuding.
 There, happy that he lives to see that day,
 The old man shakes his son's returning hand.
 A stranger he comes back unto his own,
 His long-forsaken home. With spreading boughs
 The tree o'ershadows the long absent man,
 Which oft the boy had bent ere he departed ;
 And bashful-blushing, comes a maid to meet him,
 Whom at the nurse's breast a child he left.
 O happy he, for whom a door like this,
 Soft arms like these, shall open to enfold him !—
Quest. (affected). Alas ! that thou should'st speak of distant times,
 Not of to-morrow, or to-day !

II. SCENE WITH THEKLA AFTER THE DEATH OF HER LOVER.

Thekla. Now—now, good Neubrunn, may'st thou show that love
 Which thou hast ever vow'd to me—Now prove
 Thyself my faithful friend and true attendant,
 For we must forth to-night.

Neubrunn.

To-night ?—and whither ?

Thek. Whither ?—there is but *one* place in the world—
 The spot where *he* lies buried—TO HIS GRAVE.

Neub. What would'st thou do, my dearest lady, there ?

Thek. What would I do ?—unhappy girl !—thou would'st not
 Have ask'd that question had'st thou ever loved.
 There—there is all that yet remains of him,
 That little spot is all the world to me.

O, seek not to detain me ! Come, prepare—

Think only how we may escape from hence.

Neub. Hast thou reflected on thy father's wrath ?

Thek. I dread the anger of no mortal more.

Neub. The world's cold sneer, the evil tongue of slander ?

Thek. I seek for him who is not of this world.

What ! am I hurrying to a lover's arms ?

O God, I am but hasting to his grave !

Neub. Thy heart is full of trouble, dearest lady—
 That path is not the path that leads to rest.

Thek. To that deep rest, which *he* hath found already.
 O hasten, fly—stay not to question longer.

Some power, I know not what to call it, draws me,
Impels me forth, resistless, to his grave :

I feel that there my heart will soon be lighten'd ;

This suffocating band of sorrow will

Be slacken'd, and my tears will flow again.

O go ! we might have been already gone.

• I cannot rest till I have left these walls

Behind—their arches seem to close and crush me,

And warning voices, as of spirits, cry—

Begone !—O God ! what feeling's this comes o'er me ?

The rooms of this accursed house are filling

With pale, and gaunt, and ghastly forms of men—

There is no room for me. What ! more and more ?

Still closer crowd the horrid swarm ! They drive me

Forth from these fated walls—the living spectres !

Neub. You terrify me, lady. I myself

Dare not remain here longer. I will go

And summon Rosenberg.

Thek. (alone.) It is his spirit calls me ; 'tis the host

Of faithful hearts that died t' avenge his fall—

They beckon me, they chide my cold delay ;

They would not, even in death, forsake the man

Who in their life had led them. Their rude hearts

Were capable of this, and shall I live ?

Ah, no ! the laurel garland which they wove

To deck thine early bier, for mine was braided :

What is this life without the light of love ?

I cast it from me, for its bloom hath faded.

Yes, when I loved, and felt thy love was given,

Then life indeed was something. Glittering lay

The golden radiance of a new-born day,

And life was for an hour a dream of heaven !

Thou stood'st as on life's threshold, newly lighted,

When first I cross'd it with a maiden fear ;

A thousand suns to gild my path united,

And thou wert like an angel station'd near ;

From childhood's fairy land to lead me forth,

On to life's eminence my guide to be ;

My first sensation was of heavenly birth !

My first fond look of love was fix'd on thee !

[*She sinks into a reverie, then proceeds, with signs of horror.*

But fate put forth its hand, and, rude and cold,

With iron grasp it crush'd thy tender mould ;

Beneath the horses' hoofs that frame was hurl'd—

So fares it with the lovely in this world.

III. WALLENSTEIN'S MUSINGS AFTER THE DEATH OF MAX PICCOLO-MINI, &c.

Wal. There is a busy muster in the heavens—

The nightwind hunts the castle flag—swift fly

The driving clouds—the moon her sickle shakes,

And through the night scatters uncertain gleams.

No star is in the sky: Yon languid ray,
That twinkles lonely, streams from Cassiopeia,
And thereabout is Jupiter; but yet
The darkness of the storm-cloud covers him.

[*He sinks into meditation, and looks out with fixed attention.
Countess (looking on him mournfully, and clasping him by the hand).*

What dost thou think of? Tell me, Wallenstein.

Wal. Methinks if I but saw him, it were well:
He is the star that shone upon my life,
And often hath the sight of him inspired me
With wondrous strength.

Coun. Thou wilt see him yet again.

Wall. (*who has again sunk into abstraction, rouses himself and turns
hastily to the Countess*).

See him again—O never, never!

Coun. How?

Wall. For he is dead—is dust.

Coun. Whom dost thou mean?

Wall. He is the happy one—His race is run.
For him there is no future more—with him
Fate plays no more its treacherous game, his life
Lies foldless all and clear before his eye—
No spot lurks darkly now—no hour for him,
With evil-boding stroke, can knell again!
High above hope and dread, beyond the sphere
Of these inconstant, these perfidious planets—
O, well with him! but who shall say what fate
For us the dark approaching hour may bring?

Coun. Thou speak'st of Piccolomini—How died he?
The messenger went hence even as I came.

[*Wallenstein motions to her with his hand to be silent.*
O, look not back upon the gloomy past,
But forth into the clearer coming day.
Think of the prize, forget the price it cost.
Think not to-day that thou hast lost thy friend,
For when he left thy side he died to thee.

Wall. I know I shall forget the blow at last;
What will not man forget? From things most dear,
Even as from things most common, is he wean'd
By the omnipotence of circumstance.
But well I feel what I have lost in him.
The flower is faded from my way of life,
And cold and dreary lies the path before me;
For he was like the spirit of my youth,
Making reality a lovely dream,
And with the magic mists of morning gilding
The bare and naked nothingness of things;
In the pure flame of feeling and of love
The worn and daily forms of life exalting,
Till I myself have wonder'd at the change.
Yes, I may struggle onward; but the dream—
The dream of life is gone—that comes no more;
For what are Fortune's gifts without the friend,
Who feels our joy, and doubles while he shares it?

Coun. Droop not, nor doubt of thine own strength ; thy heart
Is rich enough to need no other impulse.
The virtues which thou lovest and prizest in him,
Thou hast thyself implanted and unfolded.

Wall. (*going to the door*). Who comes to us so late at night ?—It is
The commandant. He brings the fortress-keys.—
Leave us, my sister—Midnight is at hand.

Coun. Alas ! to-night I scarce can bear to leave thee,
And fear sits heavy on me.

Wall. Fear ?—of what ?

Coun. Thou may'st be taken from us in the night,
And we may wake and find thee never more.

Wall. Mere phantoms of the brain !—

Coun. —My soul hath been
Long harass'd by some dark presentiments ;
And when I combat them awake, they fall
In sleep upon my heart in fearful dreams.
Methought I saw thee yesternight beside
Thy former wife, at table, richly dress'd——

Wall. That is a dream of happy augury ;
That marriage was the footstool of my fortunes.

Coun. To-day I dreamt I sought thee in thy chamber.
I enter'd ; when I look'd around, it was not
Thy chamber, but the monast'ry at Gitschin,
Which thou hast built, and where thou would'st be buried.

Wall. One painful thought preoccupies thy mind.

Con. How ? Deem'st thou not that warning voices speak.
Prophetic of our fate, to us in dreams ?

Wal. There are such voices, that is doubtless ; yet
Not WARNING VOICES, since they but foretell
That which is fix'd and unavoidable.

Even as the sun's reflection in the horizon
Gleams ere he rises, so the spectral shadows
Of great events come striding on before,
And in to-day already stalks to-morrow.
I have bethought me often of the tales

Which I have heard of the fourth Henry's death.
Long ere Ravallac's murd'rous hand had arm'd
Itself against his life, the King had felt
The visionary dagger in his breast ;
It broke his nightly rest ; it haunted him
Even in the guarded chambers of his Louvre ;
It drove him forth ; the coronation mirth
Peal'd round him like a funeral knell ; his ear
Heard the loud beating of the assassin's tread,
That sought him through the crowded streets of Paris.

Coun. And does no fearful presage tell thee aught ?

Wall. Nothing.—Be calm and fear not.

Coun. (*relapsing into melancholy thought*). Once again,
As after thee I came, thou fled'st before me
Through lengthen'd passages and empty halls,
That open'd endless on the eye. Doors beat
Together clashing ; panting, on I flew,

But could not reach thee. Sudden from behind
 I felt a frozen hand lay hold upon me—
 'Twas thine—and thou did'st kiss me ; and above us
 A crimson covering slowly was laid down.

ODE

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF BONAPARTE.

(*From an Article on Manzoni's Italian Tragedies, in the Foreign Quarterly Review, No. I.*)

“ THE stormy joy, the trembling hope
 That wait on mightiest enterprise ;
 The panting heart of one, whose scope
 Was empire, and who gain'd the prize,
 And grasps a crown, of which it seem'd
 Scarce less than madness to have dream'd,—
 All these were his ; glory that shone
 The brighter for its perils past,
 The rout, the victory, the throne,
 The gloom of banishment at last,—
 Twice in the very dust abased,
 And twice on Fortune's altar raised.

His name was heard ; and mute with fear
 Contending centuries stood by,
 Submissive, from his mouth to hear
 The sentence of their destiny ;
 While he bade silence be, and sate
 Between them, arbiter of fate.

He pass'd, and on this barren rock
 Inactive closed his proud career,
 A mark for envy's rudest shock,
 For pity's warmest, purest tear,
 For hatred's unextinguished fire,
 And love that lives when all expire.

As on the drowning seaman's head
 The wave comes thundering from on high ;
 The wave to which, afar display'd,
 The wretch had turn'd his straining eye,
 And gazed along the gloomy main
 For some far sail, but gazed in vain :
 So on his soul came back the wave
 Of melancholy memory.
 How oft hath he essay'd to grave
 His image for posterity ;

Till o'er th' eternal chronicle
The weary hand desponding fell !

How oft, what time the listless day
Hath died, and in the lonely flood
The Indian sun hath quench'd his ray,
With folded arms the hero stood ;
While dreams of days no more to be
Throng back into his memory ;
He sees his moving tents again,
The leaguer'd walls around him lie,
The squadrons gleaming on the plain,
The ocean wave of cavalry,
The rapid order promptly made,
And with the speed of thought obey'd.
Alas ! beneath its punishment
Perchance the wearied soul had droop'd
Despairing ; but a spirit sent
From heaven to raise the wretched, stoop'd
And bore him where diviner air
Breathes balm and comfort to despair."

STANZAS

WRITTEN AT THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR.

(From "*Literary Gems*.")

AND it hath gone into the grave of time—
The past—the mighty sepulchre of all !
That solemn sound—the midnight's mournful chime,
Was its deep dead-bell !—but, within the hall,
The old and young held gladsome festival.—
What hath it left them, thus to cause such joy ?—
Gray hairs to some—and hearts less green to all,
And fewer steps to where their fathers lie
Low in the church-yard cell—cold—dark—and silently.—

Strange time for mirth—when round the leafless tree
The wild winds of the winter moan and sigh,
And while the twilight saddens o'er the lea,
Mute every woodland's evening melody—
Mute the wide landscape—save where, hurrying by,
Roars the dark torrent on its headlong flight,
Or, slowly sailing through the blackening sky,
Hoots unto solitude the bird of night,
Seeking the domeless wall—the turret's hoary height :—

And yet with Nature, sooth, we need not grieve ;
She does not heed the woes of human kind :

No ; for the tempests howl, the waters heave
 Their hoary hills unto the raging wind,
 And the poor bark no resting-place can find ;
 And friends on shore shall weep—and weep in vain.
 For, to the ruthless elements consign'd,
 The seaman's corpse is drifting through the main,
 Ne'er to be seen by them—nor heard of e'er again !

Now o'er the skies the orbs of light are spread,
 And through yon shoreless sea they wander on :—
 Where is the place of your abode, ye dead ?
 To what far regions have your spirits gone ?
 But ye are silent—silent as the stone
 That gathers moss above your bed of rest,
 And from the land of-souls returneth none
 To tell us of the place to which we haste :
 But time will tell us all—and time will tell us best.

How still—how soft—and yet how dread is all
 The scene around !—the silent earth and air !
 What glorious lamps are hung in Night's high hall—
 Her dome—so vast, magnificent, and fair !
 Oh ! for an angel's wing, to waft me there !
 How sweet, methinks, e'en for one little day,
 To leave this cold, dull sphere of cloud and care,
 And midst the immortal bowers above, to stray
 In lands of light and love—unblighted by decay !

Surely there is a language in the sky—
 A voice that speaketh of a world to come ;
 It swells from out thy depths, Immensity !
 And tells us this is not our final home—
 As the toss'd bark, amidst the ocean's foam,
 Hails, through the gloom, the beacon o'er the wave ;
 So from life's troubled sea, o'er which we roam,
 The stars, like beacon lights, beyond the grave,
 Shine through the deep, o'er which our barks we hope to save !

Now gleams the moon on Arthur's mighty crest,
 That dweller of the air—abrupt and lone ;
 Hush'd is the city in her nightly rest ;
 But hark !—there comes a sweet and solemn tone,
 The lingering strains, that swell'd, in ages gone,
 The music of the wake—oh ! many an ear,
 Raised from the pillow gentle sleep hath flown,
 Lists with delight, while blend the smile and tear,
 As recollections rise of many a vanish'd year.

It speaks of former scenes—of days gone by—
 Of early friendships—of the loved and lost—
 And wakes such music in the heart, as sigh
 Of evening woes from harp-strings gently cross'd ;
 And thoughts and feelings crowd—a varied host,

O'er the lone bosom from their slumbers deep,
 Unfelt amidst its winter's gathering frost,
 Till the soft spell of music o'er it creep,
 And thaw the ice away, and bid the dreamer weep!
Edinburgh Magazine.

THE SCHOOL-BOYS.

(From "Literary Gems.")

'Twas evening mild : the sun's departing eye
 Closed on the hills that skirt the western sky ;
 Deep from the grove the stock-dove's notes were heard,
 Tuned to the courtship of his listening bird ;
 Lone in the vale the abbey's tower was seen
 Clad in the ivy's venerable green :
 From every cot the smoke in columns curl'd,
 And sweetness smiled on all the vernal world.
 In such a spot Contentment seem'd to dwell,
 Sick of the town, beneath her turf-clad cell :
 Sequester'd here from fashion's high-bred trains,
 The tenant knows not folly's secret pains ;
 Unconscious he of half the joys that crown
 The taste, the mode, the learning of the town ;
 Unconscious, too, of all their secret woe,
 And all the mighty nothingness of show.

I wander'd down the vale and pass'd the spot
 Where once my guardian held his peaceful cot ;
 I pass'd the house where oft, with careless look,
 I named the letters from the pictured book ;
 I saw the scenes where, fond of careless play,
 On thy blest afternoon, sweet Saturday !
 Perhaps I raised the magpie's chattering tongue
 I' the airy castle where she rock'd her young ;
 Or in hand-breadth canals decoy'd the rill
 To spout upon my little water-mill ;
 Or, by the marsh, cut down the hollow cane,
 And, uninspired, piped out my noisy strain ;
 Till my kind friends, in anxious search, descried
 Their dabbled vagrant by the streamlet's side,
 And, wondering at my stay, with sharp reproof,
 Led back my footsteps to their humble roof.

But, while I pass'd along, the village tower
 Rung through the vale the sweet dismissing hour ;
 Anon from school the master's stripling crew,
 With all the noise of youthful vigour flew ;
 Round the gay green they wheel'd in sportive chase,
 With chummy laughter smirking in each face.

One only came with sad depending brow,
 And o'er the threshold ventured sour and slow;
 He, set perhaps upon the dunce's stool,
 Crown'd with the paper night-cap of the fool,
 In pettish mood now saunter'd o'er the green,
 Too sad to mingle with the jocund scene;
 Home to his mother straight he seem'd to go,
 To tell the indulging parent all his woe,
 And ask that med'cine for a watery eye,—
 A butter'd cake, till he forgot to cry.

Not so the rest, whose parents seem'd t' approve
 The master's admonition, rod, or love;
 With them the task, and all its irksome care,
 Was whirled with their bonnets in the air;
 And as a plant, confined in some close room,
 Nods o'er the flower-pot with a sickly bloom,
 But placed abroad to imbibe the nursing dews,
 Its blossoms glow with all their lovely hues;
 So they, long pent within their silent seat,
 Find health in play, and play itself more sweet.
 Some shot the marble from the chalky ring,
 While some, with wooden bit and plaited string,
 Well pleased, with trotting pace, ran round the course
 In the strange fancy of a post-boy's horse;
 With groping hands, by handkerchief made blind,
 One tried to catch the followers behind;
 With stones and turf some built the Trojan walls,
 While through the air some toss'd the bounding balls;
 Some tried the sailor's, some the mason's trade.
 And some at pitch-and-toss with buttons play'd;—
 The master's frown, the strap with triple thong
 Were banish'd in the whistle and the song;
 And the hard lesson that employ'd the day,
 Was now exchanged for salutary play.

Oh, lovely age! in careless passions blest,
 Of man's few years the happiest and the best!
 No future thoughts disturb their youthful year—
 Play all their hope, the master all their fear;
 No wish have they for wealth's ambitious curse,
 The fair-day penny fills their little purse;
 No mad desire through glory's ranks to pass,
 Their highest glory—general of the class!
 Say, do the splendid pleasures that engage
 The wisest state of man's maturer age,
 Bestow such real, such intrinsic bliss,
 As flows from youthful innocence like this?
 Alas! the sweets which many a fool pursues,
 Like Israel's quails, oft curse him as he chews;
 While these, not only luscious while they last,
 Like Plato's feast, grow sweeter when they're past.

Edinburgh Aug. 1828.

PART III.—CHRONICLE.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL CHRONICLE, OR RECORD OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

An Account of the Total Income of the Revenue of Great Britain and Ireland, in the Year and Bounties of the nature of Drawbacks; together with an Account of the Public Expenditure within the same period.

Heads of Revenue.	Net Receipt, as stated in column 4 of the account of Public Income.	
ORDINARY REVENUES.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balances and bills outstanding on 5th January 1825,	—	2,740,920 5 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Customs,	18,945,257 19 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Excise,	22,346,853 13 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Stamps,	7,623,742 0 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Taxes,	£,176,722 8 2	
Post-Office,	2,268,619 10 0 $\frac{1}{12}$	
One shilling and sixpenny duty on pensions and salaries, and four shillings in the pound on pensions,	57,958 10 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Hackney coaches, and hawkers and pedlars,	69,998 10 7	
Crown lands,	513,766 10 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Small branches of the King's hereditary revenue,	9,056 1 5	
Surplus produce of lottery, after payment of lottery prizes,	295,390 0 0	
Surplus fees of regulated public offices,	56,091 14 7	
Poundage fees, pells' fees, casualties, treasury fees, and hospital fees,	11,620 6 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	
		57,374 977 5 6 $\frac{1}{12}$
Deduct balances and bills outstanding on 5th January 1826,	—	60,115,897 10 9 $\frac{1}{4}$
		2,453,075 18 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total ordinary revenues,	— £	57,662,821 12 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
OTHER RESOURCES.		
Money brought from the civil list, on account of the clerk of the Hanaper,	2,000 0 0	
Money received from the East India Company, on account of retired pay, pensions, &c. of his Majesty's forces serving in the East Indies, per act 4 Geo. IV. c. 71,	60,900 0 0	
By the commissioners for the issue of Exchequer bills, for the employment of the poor, per act 57 Geo. III. c. 34,	208,307 0 0	
By the trustees of naval and military pensions,	4,507,500 0 0	
Money repaid in Ireland, on account of advances from the consolidated fund, under various acts, for public improvements,	210,388 14 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Imprest and other monies paid into the Exchequer,	220,283 11 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	
		5,208,479 5 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
		£ 62,871,300 18 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Balances in the hands of receivers, &c. on 5th January 1825,		2,740,920 5 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto ditto on 5th January 1826,		2,453,075 18 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Balances less in 1826 than in 1825,		287,844 6 10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Surplus income, paid into the Exchequer, over expenditure thereout,		5,653,841 6 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Actual excess of income over expenditure,	£	5,365,996 19 14 $\frac{1}{4}$

ended 5th January, 1826; after deducting the Repayments, Allowances, Discounts, Drawbacks, of the United Kingdom, exclusive of the Sums applied to the Reduction of the National Debt;

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
PAYMENTS OUT OF THE INCOME IN ITS PROGRESS TO THE EXCHEQUER.						
Charges of Collection,	3,898,377	16	7½			
Other payments,	1,699,053	19	6½			
Total payments out of the income,* prior to the payments into the Exchequer,				5,597,431	16	2½
PAYMENTS OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.						
Dividends, interest, and management of the public debt, four quarters to 10th October, 1825, exclusive of 5,486,475l. 7s. 8d. issued to the commissioners for the reduction of the national debt,	27,230,789	19	6½			
Interest on exchequer bills,	328,498	2	5	28,060,288	1	11½
Issued to the trustees of military and naval pensions, &c. per act 3 Geo. IV. c. 51,	2,214,260	0	0			
Do. to the Bank of England, per act 4 Geo. IV. c. 22	585,740	0	0	2,800,000	0	0
Civil list, four quarters to 5th January, 1826,	1,057,000	0	0			
Pensions charged by act of parliament on consolidated fund, four quarters to 10th October, 1825,	366,028	8	2½			
Salaries and allowances,	87,641	5	0½			
Officers' courts of justice,	98,642	0	4			
Expenses of the mint,	14,748	15	10			
Bounties,	2,956	13	8			
Miscellaneous,	261,845	18	0			
Ditto Ireland,	301,084	2	9	1,189,947	3	10
Repayment of loan from Royal Exchange Assurance Company, on account of the new street,	100,000	0	0			
For the purchase of silver for the new coinage in Ireland,	500,000	0	0			
For building new churches in the Highlands of Scotland	50,000	0	0	650,000	0	0
Army,	7,579,631	4	4½			
Navy,	5,849,119	4	3			
Ordnance,	1,567,087	7	7½			
Miscellaneous,	2,216,081	15	4½	17,211,119	11	7½
Money paid to the Bank of England more than received from them for unclaimed dividends,	49,464	11	6			
By the commissioners for issuing exchequer bills, per act 3 Geo. IV. c. 86, for the employment of the poor,	125,150	0	0			
Advances out of the consolidated fund in Ireland, for public works,	523,258	7	2½			
				707,872	18	8½
Total,				57,217,459	12	3½
Surplus of income paid into Exchequer over expenditure issued thereout,				5,653,841	6	0½
				62,871,300	18	4½

An Account of the UNFUNDED DEBT of GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND, and of the DEMANDS outstanding on the 5th day of January, 1826; distinguished under the following heads; viz. Exchequer Bills; Sums remaining Unpaid, charged upon the Aids granted by Parliament; Advances out of the Consolidated Fund in Ireland towards the Supplies; and Exchequer Bills to be issued on the Consolidated Fund; and distinguishing also such part of the Unfunded Debt and Demands, as have been provided for by Parliament;—together with an Account of the Ways and Means remaining in the Exchequer, or to be received on the 5th of January, 1826, to defray such part of the Unfunded Debt and Demands Outstanding, as have been provided for.—[COMMONS 192.]

	Provided.			Unprovided.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Exchequer bills, exclusive of £3,756,300 issued for paying off £4 per cents, the payment of which is charged on the sinking fund,.....	...			30,771,650	0	0	30,771,650	0	0
Sums remaining unpaid, charged upon aids granted by Parliament,.....	4,422,497	3	5½	...			4,422,497	3	5½
Advances made out of the consolidated fund in Ireland, towards the supplies which are to be repaid to the consolidated fund, out of the ways and means in Great Britain,.....	655,441	12	10	..			655,441	12	10
Total unfunded debt and demands outstanding,.....	£ 5,077,938	16	3½	30,771,650	0	0	35,849,588	16	3½
Ways and means,.....	£ 5,335,870	9	4½	...			...
Surplus ways and means,.....	257,931	13	1	...			...
Exchequer bills to be issued to complete the charge upon the consolidated fund,.....	£ 5,548,817	9	7	...			5,548,817	9	7

PRISONS.

REPORT of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the State of Prisons in Scotland, and into the means of maintaining Prisoners confined therein under criminal warrants.—[COMMONS.]

YOUR Committee have called for and obtained returns calculated to show the present condition of the prisons in Scotland, and they have examined several witnesses qualified to afford important information on the subject. They have also procured

evidence as to the extent of the funds belonging to royal burghs, on which alone the obligation to erect and maintain sufficient gaols, and to alimment prisoners under criminal warrants subsequent to conviction, is at present by law imposed.

The result of this inquiry has, in the opinion of your Committee, been to show, that with a few exceptions, the state of those prisons is very defective in point of security, accommodation, and management; while the funds from which such prisons ought to be improved, are, in most instances, inadequate to that purpose.

It seems matter of regret, that so little advantage has resulted from the inquiries into the state of Scottish gaols, which were made in Parliament in the years 1818 and 1819, followed by the act 59 Geo. III. c. 61, which enabled counties to give aid to burghs in enlarging and improving their prisons; and under such circumstances it appears to your Committee, that it is no longer a matter of choice but of necessity, that a speedy and effectual remedy should be applied to an evil of such magnitude.

Impressed with the belief that no prison can be properly constructed or regulated unless it be of considerable size, it has occurred to your Committee, as a matter meriting much attention, whether it would not be expedient that gaols should be erected in certain districts of Scotland, calculated for the custody of prisoners under criminal warrants, when subjected to imprisonment of some duration. As the assizes are not held in every county in Scotland, but solely at what are termed circuit towns, (to which towns, prisoners, not only from the counties in which such towns are situated, but from those of several adjoining counties, are brought for trial,) it is sufficiently apparent that such circuit towns would naturally form the most proper sites for these prisons; and that the counties from whence prisoners are so brought for trial, would constitute the districts for whose prisoners such gaols would respectively afford accommodation.

While your Committee have thought it their duty to bring this point into notice, they find it impossible, at this advanced period of the session of Parliament, to furnish a full and satisfactory report on the important and difficult matters referred to their consideration, especially as touching the sources from which the necessary means for erecting proper prisons, and for the alimentering of prisoners under

criminal warrants, subsequent to conviction, ought to be derived. Your Committee have, therefore, deemed it the most advisable course to report the evidence taken by them to the House, accompanied by the humble expression of their opinion, that in the next session of Parliament these important subjects ought again to be referred to a Committee, so that remedies best suited to the evils may, after mature consideration, be suggested, and forthwith receive effect.

With the view of obtaining correct evidence of the amount of the funds belonging to royal burghs, your Committee thought it the most expedient course to call for copies of those accounts of each burgh, which had been made up for the year ending in October 1825, in terms of the act 3 Geo. IV. c. 91, entitled, "An Act for regulating the mode of accounting for the common good and revenues of the royal burghs of Scotland;" such accounts were in consequence obtained; but they proved to be so voluminous, that your Committee have not deemed it advisable to lay them before the House, but have caused an abstract made from these accounts to form part of the appendix to this report.

This report is followed by an Appendix, containing details of the state of the various prisons of Scotland.

CHURCHES.

Second REPORT of the Commissioners appointed by Virtue of an Act of Parliament, passed in the fourth year of the reign of his Majesty King George the Fourth, entitled, "An Act for building additional Places of Worship in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland."—[COMMONS.]

THE proceedings of the Commissioners, from August 1823 to June

1825, were fully detailed in their first report, which contained a list of those places, thirty-one in number, to each of which a church had been assigned, and (with one exception) a minister and manse; also a separate list of ten places, to which ministers and manses only had been provisionally offered, under the 28th section of the amended act of 1824.

The first of these lists was liable to little alterations; the remote situation of Quarff, on the mainland of Shetland, had, indeed, precluded accurate knowledge of the place until last autumn, when a surveyor was dispatched to the Shetland islands at a large expense, which has produced little more than negative results; neither Quarff nor the places where the ministers and manses were offered, appearing to be decidedly eligible for the intended purpose; but it is hoped that the surveyor has acquired such knowledge as may become useful hereafter, in judging of local information, which must be now sought from the presbytery and civil authorities.

The surveyor took this opportunity to revisit the Orkney islands, where ministers and manses have been assigned to Deerness and North Ronaldsay respectively, on condition that the existing churches shall be properly repaired and fitted for divine service, and security given to uphold them in future.

Of the other places to which ministers and manses have been thus offered, four or five apparently will fail of obtaining the expected benefit, and thereby afford an opportunity of transferring the offers to other applicants.

The Commissioners have seen occasion to revise their proceedings with regard to the extensive parish of Gairloch, the applications from which appear to have been unsuccessful, from circumstances which merit in-

dulgence; so that one church will be placed in that parish, when the best situation for it shall have been ascertained, the original application having extended to no less than three additional churches.

The buildings (of which a sketch was given in the report of June last) have undergone no material alteration, but much discussion has arisen concerning the estimates and specifications; and from this cause chiefly the contractors are not so forward in their work as was anticipated. At present there is reason to expect that four churches, with the respective manses, will be completed before the end of the present year. Of these, Tomantoul and Kinloch Luichart will be finished in July; Croisk, (improperly called Brac, in the list of Churches,) and Plockton in Lochalsh, in September or October next.

Several of the applicants express an opinion, that fifteen hundred pounds is a scanty allowance for completing a church, a manse, and its appurtenances; but as this limit is imposed by the Highland church act, the Commissioners cannot go beyond it; nor have they been able to satisfy some of the applicants, who complain that their churches are not early on the list for completion; but the general progress of the whole work has been the sole object regarded in distributing the churches and manses among the several contractors, who could scarcely have commenced operations on a single church or manse at the present moment, had they waited for the actual signature of their respective contracts, several minute details not having been settled till very recently, and this without imputation of undue delay in any of the parties concerned.

The Commissioners annex hereto the annual account of charges and expenses payable by the Treasury,

amounting to 1320*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, a larger sum, in all probability, than will be required in any future year.

*REPORT from the Lords' Committee appointed a Select Committee to inquire into the State of Circulation of Promissory Notes under the value of 5*l.* in Scotland and England ; and to report to the House.*

THE Committee have proceeded to the consideration of the subject referred to them by the House, and have collected from the examination of witnesses, and of the accounts laid before them, the information which will be found in the minutes of evidence, and in the appendix.

They do not think it necessary to enter into a detailed analysis of this mass of information, because the result of it would not lead, in their opinion, to the proposal to parliament, during the present session, of any measure affecting the circulating medium either of Scotland or of Ireland.

They entertain no doubt that, upon general principles, it would be desirable that the same system of currency should prevail throughout Great Britain and Ireland. At the same time, they are fully sensible that to such an uniformity of system there may be obstacles which may render the attempt to establish it at any particular period, if not impracticable, yet liable to inconveniences which might more than counterbalance the ultimate advantage to be derived from it.

With respect to Scotland, (to which the Committee wish, in the first place, to call the attention of the House,) it is to be remarked, that during the period from 1766 to 1797, when no small notes were by law issuable in England, the portion of the currency of Scotland in which payments under 5*l.* were made continued to consist

almost entirely of notes of 1*l.* and 1*l.* 1*s.* and that no inconvenience is known to have resulted from this difference in the currency of the two countries. This circumstance, amongst others, tends to prove that uniformity, however desirable, is not indispensably necessary. It is also proved by the evidence, and by the documents, that the banks of Scotland, whether chartered or joint stock companies, or private establishments, have, for more than a century, exhibited a stability which the Committee believe to be unexampled in the history of banking ; that they supported themselves, from 1797 to 1812, without any protection from the restriction by which the Bank of England and that of Ireland were relieved from cash payments ; that there was little demand for gold during the late embarrassments in the circulation ; and that, in the whole period of their establishment, there are not more than two or three instances of bankruptcy. As, during the whole of this period, a large portion of their issues consisted, almost entirely, of notes not exceeding 1*l.* or 1*l.* 1*s.* there is the strongest reason for concluding that, as far as respects the banks of Scotland, the issue of paper of that description has been found compatible with the highest degree of solidity ; and that there is not, therefore, while they are conducted upon their present system, sufficient ground for proposing any alteration, with the view of adding to a solidity which has so long been sufficiently established.

This solidity appears to derive a great support from the constant exchange of notes between the different banks, by which they become checks upon each other, and by which any over-issue is subject to immediate observation and correction.

There is also one part of their system which is stated by all the witness-

es, (and in the opinion of the Committee very justly stated,) to have had the best effects upon the people of Scotland, and particularly upon the middling and poorer classes of society, in producing and encouraging habits of frugality and industry. The practice referred to is that of cash credits. Any person who applies to a bank for a cash credit is called upon to produce two or more competent securities, who are jointly bound, and after a full inquiry into the character of the applicant, the nature of his business, and the sufficiency of his securities, he is allowed to open a credit, and to draw upon the bank for the whole of its amount, or for such part as his daily transactions may require. To the credit of this account he pays in such sums as he may not have occasion to use; and interest is charged or credited upon the daily balance, as the case may be. From the facility which these cash credits give to all the small transactions of the country, and from the opportunities which they afford to persons, who begin business with little or no capital but their character, to employ profitably the minutest products of their industry, it cannot be doubted that the most important advantages are derived to the whole community. The advantage to the banks who give these cash credits arises from the call which they continually produce for the issue of their paper, and from the opportunity which they afford for the profitable employment of part of their deposits. The banks are indeed so sensible, that, in order to make this part of their business advantageous and secure, it is necessary that their cash credits should (as they express it) be frequently operated upon, that they refuse to continue them unless this implied condition be fulfilled. The total amount of their cash credits is stated by one witness to be five mil-

lions, of which the average amount advanced by the banks may be one-third.

The manner in which the practice of deposits on receipt is conducted, tends to produce the same desirable results. Sums to as low an amount as 10% (and in some instances lower) are taken by the banks from the depositor, who may claim them on demand. He receives an interest, usually about one per cent below the market rate. It is stated that these deposits are to a great extent left uncalled for from year to year, and that the depositors are in the habit of adding, at the end of each year, to the interest then accrued, the amount of their yearly savings; that the sums thus gradually accumulated belong chiefly to the labouring and industrious classes of the community, and that when such accounts are closed, it is generally for the purpose of enabling the depositors either to purchase a house or to engage in business.

It is contended by all the persons engaged in banking in Scotland, that the issue of one pound notes is essential to the continuance both of their cash credits, and of the branch banks established in the poorest and most remote districts. Whether the discontinuance of one pound notes would necessarily operate to the full extent which they apprehend, in either of these respects, may perhaps admit of doubt; but the apprehensions entertained on this head, by the persons most immediately concerned, might, for a time at least, have nearly the same effect as the actual necessity, and there is strong reason to believe that, if the prohibition of one pound notes should not ultimately overturn the whole system, it must for a considerable time materially affect it.

The Directors of the Bank of England, who have been examined before the Committee, have given it as their

opinion, that a circulation of notes of one pound in Scotland or in Ireland would not produce any effects injurious to the metallic circulation of England, provided such notes be respectively confined within the boundary of their own country.

Notwithstanding the opinions which have been here detailed, the Committee are on the whole so deeply impressed with the importance of a metallic circulation below 5*l.* in England, not only for the benefit of England, but likewise for that of all the other parts of the empire, that if they were reduced to make an option between the establishment of such a metallic circulation in Scotland, or the abandonment of it in England, they would recommend the prohibition of small notes in Scotland. But they entertain a reasonable expectation that legislative measures may be devised which will be effectual in preventing the introduction of Scotch paper into England; and unless such measures should in practice prove ineffectual, or unless some new circumstance should arise to derange the operations of the existing system in Scotland itself, or materially to affect the relations of trade and intercourse between Scotland and England, they are not disposed to recommend that the existing system of banking and currency in Scotland should be disturbed.

With respect to Ireland, the situation of that country, as to its circulation, and as to its system of banking, is materially different from that of Scotland. In Scotland there are three banks, of which the proprietors are protected by act of parliament or charter from personal responsibility beyond the amount of their respective shares; and there are many other banks, consisting of a large and unlimited number of partners, personally responsible to the whole extent of

their property, of which the aggregate amount is very considerable. There are also branches or agencies of most of the banks very widely established throughout the country.

In Ireland, the only bank possessing the advantage of a limitation of personal responsibility, is the Bank of Ireland, which, till a late alteration in the law, was the only establishment which was permitted to have more than six partners. The circulating medium consists, indeed, in both countries, to a great extent of notes under 5*l.*; but the system of banking in Ireland, instead of remaining unshaken for a long period, as that of Scotland, has experienced so many shocks, that its banking establishments are now nearly confined to the chartered Bank of Ireland, its local agencies, the branches of the provincial bank which is established in London, one joint stock company in Dublin, and another at Belfast, the latter of which has local agencies, and a few private banks in Dublin and Belfast. The issue of notes under 5*l.* has been at different periods permitted and prohibited in Ireland; there is therefore no prescription to plead for their continuance, and there is no experience of any such system as that of cash credits in Scotland, which is stated to rest mainly upon their issue. There is not at present in Ireland the same check upon over-issue, which is derived in Scotland from the continual exchanges of notes between the different banks; and the failures of private banks have frequently spread the greatest distress over large portions of the country. Previously to the Bank Restriction Act, there appears, by the evidence taken before the committee of the House of Commons in 1804, to have existed in Ireland a considerable metallic circulation, of the existence of which in Scotland the committee are not informed.

Many of the reasons, therefore, upon which the committee have grounded their opinion against any present provision for a future alteration in the currency of Scotland, do not apply to Ireland, and the introduction of a larger proportion of metallic currency into the latter country appears liable to less difficulty than the application of the same principle to the former. There is, however, a considerable difference in the opinions of the witnesses, whom the committee have hitherto had the opportunity of examining. While all agree in the necessity of allowing the issue of paper below 5*l.* on account of the small value of the articles which compose the daily transactions of the country, there are some who think that the inconvenience to be apprehended from any change in the present circulation would be only temporary, and would be materially mitigated, by allowing the issue of notes of 2*l.* or 3*l.* There are others who state that any alteration by which the issue of 1*l.* notes should be prohibited, would cause the cessation, or at least the contraction, to a most inconvenient degree, of the accommodation now afforded to the country; that it would involve the discontinuance of many of the branches both of the Bank of Ireland and of the provincial bank; and that it would put an end to the prospect of establishing the Scotch system of cash credits, into which system the provincial bank was beginning to enter.

The committee cannot but admit it to be doubtful whether, under the peculiar circumstances of Ireland, the Scottish system is capable of being transferred in all its parts, and with all its advantages, to that country; but they abstain from recommending, at the present moment, the adoption of any measure for assimilating by slow gradations the circulating me-

dium of Ireland to that which will become at an earlier period the circulating medium of England, only under the expectation, that further information and more experience, as to the effects and operation of the changes which have lately taken place in the banking system of Ireland, may lead to the formation of a decided opinion upon grounds more completely satisfactory than those upon which they could at present rest it.

MR JACOB'S REPORT *on the Trade in Corn, and on the Agriculture of the North of Europe.* Dated 21st February, 1826.

To the Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of his Majesty's Privy Council for Trade.

MY LORDS,

IN pursuance of the instructions communicated by your lordships on the 25th June last, I proceeded to the continent, passing through the Netherlands, the Prussian provinces on the Rhine, and the dominions of Saxony, to Berlin, and from thence by Stettin to Dantzic.

From Dantzic I travelled through the kingdom of Poland, visiting Thorn, Warsaw, and Cracow; deviating in several directions from the main road, returned through Galicia, Moravia, Austria, Bavaria, and Wirtemberg, to Strasburgh, where I entered France, and, by way of Paris, reached England.

I was induced, by my instructions, to direct my principal attention to the supplies of grain, and the nature of the commerce in it, within the districts whose surplus finds a vent through the mouths of the Vistula; and also to collect information on the subject in the other parts of the continent through which I passed.

I heard everywhere among land-

owners, farmers, and corn merchants, complaints of the distress in which they were involved; and their complaints were far too general to leave room for the suspicion, that they were not founded on the existing state of their respective circumstances. The prices of produce of all kinds within the last three or four years, when compared with the period which had preceded them, or indeed with any past period, in which prices are accurately recorded, confirmed the conviction, that their complaints were justified by the losses they had sustained.

It appeared of some importance to collect, where it could be done with any assurance of accuracy, the prices of corn for a series of years. The wars of which these countries have been the theatre, gave a degree of uncertainty to some of the accounts before the year 1815, and that uncertainty was in several places increased by the variations in the value of the circulating medium, which had taken place during the continuance of hostilities. Except at Dantzic, where a register had been kept for near two centuries, at Berlin, where from the minister of the interior I received the prices for fifty years; and at Warsaw, where I obtained them from the Stadthouse, for thirty years, I confined my inquiries to the last ten years. The several accounts which were collected, form a part of the appendix to this report.

As the facts collected, and the remarks made during my journey, are of very various kinds, and were committed to writing as they occurred, it may be more satisfactory to your lordships if, after shortly describing the nature of the corn trade, as carried on by the Vistula, which, as far as concerns wheat, is the most important; and after recounting, according to my instructions, the quantity of wheat accumulated in the several exporting

places, I state whatever relates to the raising of corn, to the cost of its production, and the supplies yielded, in the different divisions of Europe, which have hitherto conveyed their grain to our markets, in the order in which I viewed the several countries.

The commerce of corn generally in the countries whose connexion with the sea, is maintained by the river Vistula, has been extensive during a long series of years. The shipment to foreign countries was, during a long period, almost exclusively confined to the city of Dantzic.

The government of Prussia viewed with some jealousy the trade of that city, which was then one of the independent Hanse Towns; and having the land on both sides the river, from the boundaries of Poland to those of Dantzic, endeavoured, by forming the city of Elbing into a free mart, to draw the trade through that place and its port of Pillau.

Some success attended this plan, and the trade was carried on through the two rival channels, with a competition which has been continued to the present time; for though Dantzic has been since added to the Prussian territories, and the preference given to Elbing consequently withdrawn, the latter city seems to have retained its proportionate share of the export of corn.

Attempts are at this time making by Russia, to divert the corn trade of Poland, but especially of the provinces of that country which have been separated from it, and are now comprehended in Russia, to the port of Riga, as the place of shipment. For this purpose, canals are now constructing, which are intended to facilitate the conveyance of goods to the river Duna. It is not, however, probable, that a very great proportion of the trade will be drawn into that channel. The port of Riga is closed by frost a much

longer time than that of Dantzic; the passage from it to the countries where corn is wanted, is longer; the climate is less favourable for drying the grain after removing it from the barges, preparatory to shipment; and it, at present, has not those spacious and well-adapted warehouses, for the secure deposit of corn, by which Dantzic is eminently distinguished.

Some portion of the corn is at present brought down to the sea-shore, by the river Niemen, and, after paying a transit duty to Prussia, at the town of Schmaleningken, is conveyed to Memel. This branch of the trade is, however, but small, as it appears (see Appendix, No. 1.) that in the three years, 1816, 1817, and 1818, a period when the general trade was the greatest, the whole quantity that paid the transit duty was only 49,596 quarters of wheat, 21,830 quarters of barley, 185,292 quarters of rye, and 108,482 quarters of oats.

From the southern provinces of Poland, viz. Sandomir and Cracow, in which the greatest quantity of the best wheat is produced, a portion is annually sent into the neighbouring Prussian province of Silesia, by land, where a part of it is consumed by the few inhabitants of Breslaw, and the other cities who eat wheaten bread. The greater part is, however, conveyed by the river Oder, and then by the canal which unites that river with the Havel, to the city of Berlin. It forms an article in the weekly returns of the corn market of that capital; and, by the whiteness of its flour, is preferred for pastry and confectionery. In those years, when the prices of grain have been the most raised in England, some of it has been sent here from Stettin, whilst those of the inhabitants of that neighbourhood who used wheat were supplied with an inferior kind of their own growth.

Those other channels, by which the surplus corn of Poland is distributed,

bear, however, but a small proportion to that which passes by the mouths of the Vistula, at Dantzic and Elbing; and the manner in which the trade by these places is carried on, may deserve detailed notices.

The cultivators of that corn which is supplied to trade, are almost universally both owners and occupiers of the soil on which it grows. They cultivate it by the labour of their tenants or subjects, who raise sufficient for their own support, but have scarcely any surplus. It does not, as in most other countries, come to the several markets in small parcels. As wheat particularly can scarcely be there considered an article of food, it would scarcely ever find purchasers among the inhabitants of the countries in which it is grown, if it were brought to the weekly or other markets in their own towns. It is almost exclusively an article for foreign consumption.

The whole of the internal commerce of Poland is in the hands of the Jews, who are very numerous, comprehending nearly one-seventh of the whole population, and not being engaged in cultivation, nor inhabiting villages, forming the majority in most of the market towns. They are acute, temperate, economical, rather active than industrious, and are said to be possessors of the far larger proportion of the floating capital of the country. Almost every transaction passes through their hands, and few persons can either buy or sell, borrow or lend, without the aid of some individuals of that race. Though not allowed by the law to call themselves brokers, or factors, they are effectually such to the whole of the nation.

They are accused of nourishing a most implacable hatred towards all other people, and of deeming it no moral crime to deceive and cheat Christians. Whatever of truth there may be in these charges, these supposed feelings of the Jews are met on the part

of the majority of the other inhabitants by a degree of contempt and degrading treatment of the most aggravating nature ; a treatment so remote from what is exercised towards that people in England, Germany, France, and Holland, that it may have perhaps mainly contributed to form the character which they are accused of bearing.

It will not appear surprising, on referring to the changes that Poland has undergone,—the ravages she has suffered from wars, the demands for the personal services of her proprietors in the armies of the successive masters that have ruled the country,—the exclusion from all foreign trade, and, till of late, the total absence of all manufactures,—that there should be now great individual distress, even whilst the country, as a whole, may be advancing in prosperity.

The individuals who most suffer are the landed proprietors, and they have, with a few exceptions, become dependent, in a greater or less degree, on the more monied Jews.

There is every reason to believe, that few landed proprietors are wholly free from incumbrances, and that many of them are involved to such an extent, that they are compelled to deliver to their creditors the whole surplus produce of their estates, as soon as it can be prepared for removal. The Jews, by their universal connexion with others of their nation in distant places, have far better opportunities of knowing what prices they are likely to obtain for corn, than the gentlemen who raise it ; and the latter, from their situation, must take that as the price which their creditors may determine.

On the banks of the Vistula there are many warehouses well adapted for preserving corn, at the places whence it is most convenient to embark it. The crops are generally removed from the farms of the proprietors as speed-

ily as possible, and remain there in the power of the creditor, who either allows for it a stipulated price, or undertakes to convey it to Dantzic, to be sold at the risk of the debtor ; but with the proceeds to be received by the creditor.

The charges for warehousing, shipping, freight, tolls, commission, and other demands, have been lately so high, in proportion to the prices, that very small sums have been carried to the credit of the landholder ; and where estates are mortgaged, they have been generally insufficient in amount to keep under the growing interest.

There are two modes of conveying wheat to Dantzic by the Vistula. That which grows near the lower parts of the river, comprehending Polish Prussia, and part of the province of Plock, and of Masovia, in the kingdom of Poland, which is generally of an inferior quality, is conveyed in covered boats, with shifting boards, that protect the cargo from the rain, but not from pilfering. These vessels are long, and draw about fifteen inches water, and bring about 150 quarters of wheat. They are not, however, so well calculated for the upper parts of the river. From Cracow, where the Vistula first becomes navigable, to below the junction of the Bug with that stream, the wheat is mostly conveyed to Dantzic in open flats. These are constructed on the banks, in seasons of leisure, on spots far from the ordinary reach of the water, but which, when the rains of autumn, or the melted snow of the Carpathian mountains, in the spring, fill and overflow the river, are easily floated.

Barges of this description are about 75 feet long, and 20 broad, with a depth of two feet and a half. They are made of fir, rudely put together, fastened with wooden treenails, the corners dove-tailed and secured with

slight iron clamps, the only iron employed in the construction.

A large tree, the length of the vessel, runs along the bottom, to which timbers are secured. This roughly cut keelson rises nine or ten inches from the floor, and hurdles are laid on it, which extend to the sides. They are covered with mats made of rye straw, and serve the purpose of dunnage; leaving below a space in which the water that leaks through the sides and bottom is received. The bulk is kept from the sides and ends of the barge by a similar plan. The water, which these ill-constructed and imperfectly caulked vessels receive, is dipped out at the end and sides of the bulk of wheat.

Vessels of this description, draw from ten to twelve inches of water, and yet they frequently get aground in descending the river. The cargoes usually consist of from 180 to 200 quarters of wheat.

The wheat is thrown on the mats, piled as high as the gunwale, and left uncovered, exposed to all the inclemencies of the weather, and to the pilfering of the crew. During the passage, the barge is carried along by the force of the stream, oars being merely used at the head and stern, to steer clear of the sand banks, which are numerous and shifting; and to direct the vessel in passing under the several bridges. These vessels are conducted by six or seven men. A small boat precedes with a man in it, who is employed in sounding, in order to avoid the shifting shoals. This mode of navigating is necessarily very slow; and during the progress of it, which lasts several weeks, and even months, the rain, if any falls, soon causes the wheat to grow, and the vessel assumes the appearance of a floating meadow. The shooting of the fibres soon forms a thick mat, and prevents the rain from penetrating more than an inch or two.

The main bulk is protected by this kind of covering, and when that is thrown aside, is found in tolerable condition.

The vessels are broken up at Dantzic, and usually sell for about two-thirds of their original cost. The men who conduct them return on foot.

When the cargo arrives at Dantzic or Elbing, all but the grown surface is thrown on the land, spread abroad, exposed to the sun and air, and frequently turned over till any slight moisture that it may have imbibed, is dried. If a shower of rain falls, as well as during the night, the heaps of wheat on the shore are thrown together, in the form of the steep roof of a house, that the rain may run off, and are covered with a linen cloth. It is thus frequently a long time after the wheat has reached Dantzic, before it is fit to be placed in the warehouses.

The warehouses are very well adapted for storing corn. They consist, generally, of seven stories, three of which are in the roof. The floors are about nine feet asunder. Each of them is divided by perpendicular partitions, the whole length, about four feet high, by which different parcels are kept distinct from each other. Thus the floors have two divisions, each of them capable of storing from 150 to 200 quarters of wheat, and leaving sufficient space for turning or screening it. There are abundance of windows in each floor, which are always thrown open, in dry weather, to ventilate the corn. It is usually turned over three times a-week. The men who perform the operation, throw it with their shovels as high as they can, and thus the grains are separated from each other, and exposed to the drying influence of the air.

The whole of the corn warehouses now left, (for many were burnt during the siege of 1814,) are capable of storing 500,000 quarters of wheat, sup-

posing the parcels to be large enough to fill each of the two divisions of the floors, with a separate heap; but as, of late years, it has come down from Poland in smaller parcels than formerly, and of more various qualities, which must of necessity be kept distinct, the present stock of about 280,000 quarters is found to occupy nearly the whole of those warehouses, which are in repair, or are advantageously situated for loading the ships. Ships are loaded by gangs of porters with great dispatch, who will complete a cargo of 500 quarters in about three or four hours. It is seen by table No. 19, in the Appendix, that within the last five or six years the whole quantity that has been brought down has been diminishing; but I was told that no sensible decrease had been observed in the number of the separate bulks, only that each bulk, or the growth of each estate, or of each consigner, was smaller.

The trade in wheat from Poland and Prussia, through Dantzic, is said to have been attended with the most ruinous losses to all the persons who have been engaged in it. The growers asserted that none for the last eight or nine years had yielded sufficient to cover the expenses of cultivation, and that it has been regularly getting worse and worse ever since the year 1818.

The Jews, who have taken the crops from the growers, have found the decline of the prices such, that if they sold on their arrival at Dantzic, it was attended with loss; and if they were in a condition to withhold from selling, and placed it in warehouses, the loss was eventually much greater. The trade of Dantzic, which is chiefly confined to corn, has been for several years in a very distressed state. The commodity in which the traders have dealt, has of late so vastly declined in

value, that what was purchased dear at one period, became in a short time cheap; the advances they made on what was consigned to them for sale, with the expense of conveyance, and of storing and preserving, soon amounted to more than the value of the wheat; and the consigners, in Poland, seldom united the ability and the disposition to make payments to indemnify them.

The corn now in the warehouses has cost the merchants much more than the present value. The royal Bank of Prussia, which has branches in the different cities of the kingdom, has advanced, on the security of the wheat now in store, half of what was the value at the time the several advances were made, and as the price has declined, has required additional security.

In calculating the stocks of wheat in the several ports of the Baltic, as I did not visit the whole of them, I was under the necessity of relying on the accounts that I could procure. His Majesty's consuls offered their assistance, and furnished me with the following list, vouching for their accuracy to the best of their judgment.

Mr Leutze, the consul at Stettin, gives the following as the stocks in Pomerania :

Ports.	Quarters.
Stettin	24,265
Anclam	10,586
Demmin	4,799
Stralsund	15,495
Griefswald	6,691
Wolgast	5,289

67,103

Mr Gibson, consul at Dantzic, to whom I am obliged for so much other useful information, gave me the exact quantity at Dantzic and Elbing: viz.

Ports.	Quarters.
Dantzic*	288,080
Elbing	73,500

361,580

* By an account taken the 31st December, 1825, since received, the stock appeared to be about 20,000 quarters less than when I was there.

Accounts of the quantities of corn in store at Memel could not be procured ; and in the absence of better means of forming an opinion, I have compared the trade of exporting corn at Memel, with that at Elbing, and find that in a series of years the exports of wheat and rye together, from the latter port, have been about double that of the former. I scarcely know if it be fair to infer, that the accumulated stock bears the same proportion to the annual returns. If so, the stock on hand must be but small.

I can only judge of the stocks accumulated in Riga and Petersburg, by comparing their trade in wheat, for a series of years, with that of Dantzic and Elbing. The exports have not been larger than those of Elbing, and it is probable their stocks, together, do not exceed those of that port. In the absence of all definite information, and trusting to the reports I received, I should be disposed to think, that in the three ports of Memel, Riga, and Petersburg, there were not 100,000 quarters of wheat, in August, when I was at Dantzic.

The state of the stock of corn at Lubeck, with the prices for the last eleven years, are shown in the Appendix, No. 33. It appears that the wheat in store there was 29,900 quarters.

Some small stocks may have been collected from the territories of the Duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, and accumulated in the ports of Rostock and Wismar. I have no information of the quantity, but should not be disposed to judge, from the general trade of those places, that more than a few thousand quarters were to be found in them. The greater part of the surplus corn of Mecklenburg finds a vent by Hamburg, and is included in the imports, from the interior, of that city. The access to the Elbe from all the southern ports of the duchy, is easier than to the Baltic ; the freights from

thence to foreign markets is lower, and the passage shorter. It is, in fact, only from the northern division of the duchy, that the wheat finds a vent through its own ports.

Although not within the Baltic, nor within the limits of my late journey, yet the wheat, which descends by the rivers Weser and Elbe, has too much influence on the general corn trade, to be overlooked in this estimate of the stocks on hand.

• The wheat stored at Bremen comes by the Weser, chiefly out of the duchy of Brunswick, though some of it is grown in Hanover ; and when the prices are very high, supplies are conveyed from Hesse Cassel, and even from some of the western districts of the Saxon duchies, through Munden. That from Brunswick is of a moderate quality, but much of the other is very bad, and only fit for the English market in times of very great scarcity.

The stock in the granaries at Bremen, in the latter end of December last, consisted of 27,972 quarters of wheat and other corn, as is shown in Appendix, No. 34.

Hamburg is an important depot for corn, of some that is brought from Russian and other ports in the Baltic, as well as for the surplus of the several countries through which the Elbe in its long course is directed. Prussia, especially near Magdeburg, is a great corn country ; but the chief grain cultivated in that division is rye. In the kingdom of Saxony, as well as in the Prussian province of that name, the quantity of rye very far exceeds the wheat, both in quality and quantity. In the years when prices are very high, the wheat of Bohemia comes down the river to Hamburg ; but the expense of conveyance, the length of the navigation, and the loss to which it is subject, act as a prohibition, except

in seasons of great scarcity. The freight from Prague to Hamburg is 12s. per quarter, and the tolls to the several sovereigns, through whose dominions the river runs, is 3s. 6d. The commissions and other charges, amount to near 1s. 6d. more.

From the shipping places below Prague the freight is lower; but the wheat grown near them, is said not to be of so good a quality as that from the vicinity of that city, and the districts to the south of it.

The export trade in wheat of Hamburg by sea, appears during the last ten years to have reached an annual average of 48,263 quarters; the greater part of the corn imported there being for the consumption of the city, and the surrounding territory belonging to it. In the Appendix, No. 32, is seen the course of the trade; the prices of all corn for the last ten years, the prices of wheat from 1791 to 1822, and the stock about 100,000 quarters, as taken at two periods in the last years.

Although the price of wheat as well as other grain is very low in Denmark, yet the surplus quantity is very small; and the depressed prices may be in a great measure attributed to the restrictions upon Danish corn in the dominions of Prussia, its nearest and most populous neighbour. The wheat exported from the whole kingdom, in the six months which followed the abundant harvest of 1824, is seen in the Appendix, No. 35, to have been 57,561 quarters. By that account, it appears, that more than half the wheat was from the provinces of Holstein and Sleswick, which are in close contact with Hamburg. In the market return of prices from that city, the wheat of Holstein forms one of the quotations; it is then fair to conclude, that a portion of the wheat exported from Holstein, if not from Sleswick, is

that which subsequently becomes a part of what is included in the exports and stock of Hamburg. I should much doubt if the whole quantity of wheat in store in October last, in the kingdom of Denmark, amounted to 200,000 quarters.

These are the returns of the several places mentioned, in the months of August or September, before the corn of the last harvest had made its appearance in the markets. I had reason, from all my inquiries, both among cultivators and merchants, to conclude that very little corn remained in the hands of the growers, except in the very rare cases, where in the same person was united a confident expectation of an advance in the prices, with a sufficiency of capital to enable him to withhold from making sales.

The circumstances of far the greater number of the occupiers of land were too much embarrassed to allow of their keeping corn, when the importunities of claimants upon them were urgent for the discharge of their demands. The general accounts were, that all which could be sold had, from necessity, been turned into money. In some of the small towns in Prussia, when movements of the troops were making, and a squadron of cavalry on a march was quartered on them for a day, so little horse corn was to be found in the granaries, that the standing oats were cut and given to the horses, as they were taken from the fields.

When in Berlin, I was told by Baron Von Bulow, minister of the interior, that the government had recently instituted inquiries into the stocks of corn in the country, and the result of those inquiries showed that the quantity in the whole of Prussia was much smaller than usual.

A very intelligent writer, a part of whose memoir (see Appendix, No. 9.)

I have translated, states the whole quantity of corn in the different countries of Europe, at 3,680,000 quarters. He includes in his estimate, rye, oats, and barley, as well as wheat, noticing the portions of each, which make up his total. Without attaching any great credit to the calculation, I allude to it because his views are those which I found commonly entertained among the more intelligent cultivators, of whom, though writing anonymously, he was said to be one.

I made it my particular business to inquire into the state of the stocks at the warehouses on the banks of the Vistula, where corn is collected, until a sufficiency of one quality is accumulated to load a vessel. In former times, as I was informed, these stores used to have a large quantity placed in them when the water was low, to be ready to take advantage of the first autumnal rains.

The water was low when I was in Poland, from the long drought and great heat of the season; few or no vessels were navigating on the upper part of the river, and yet the store-houses on the banks were empty.

At Warsaw there are large warehouses, but in them there were not 200 quarters of wheat.

At Pulaway is a large magazine, capable of storing, and adapted for keeping in good order, 6000 quarters of wheat; but it did not contain a single bushel.

At Cassimir there are several large warehouses; some of them, from having had no business of any extent during the last four years, seemed to be in need of repairs. Others were, however, in good condition. The whole are capable of storing 800,000 quarters of corn.

In none of them was any wheat, though they contained some rye belonging to the government, which its

agents had received for rent and taxes, from cultivators who could not pay money.

Rachow has warehouses for storing 14,000 quarters, but in them was neither wheat nor any other corn to be found. At Cracow the case was the same; the warehouses, which are extensive, were empty. The places I have noticed are the chief, where there are ferries over the river, and to which the roads from the surrounding districts lead. They are the most convenient for shipping goods, and most of the trade is dispatched from them. There are a few others of smaller moment, which I did not visit, and only, on hearsay, know that they are alike without wheat.

From the view I have thus taken, I am led to the conviction, that neither in the sea-ports, from which wheat is usually shipped, nor in the interior of the countries where it is grown, was there a stock which, if removed to the sea-ports, would increase the amount of what is collected there to any sensible extent.

There is an accumulation in the Russian provinces of Podolia and Volhynia, which was reported to me to have been stored in caves under ground, containing four or five years' growth.

Owing to the situation of those provinces and the difficulties and expenses of conveyance, it is more likely to perish in the depôts than to be conveyed to any places, from which it can interfere with the trade of this country.

The cost of conveying it to Dantzic would be equal to the price for which it would sell, and the shorer but more hazardous distance to Odesa, would lead to a market there, lower than even that of Dantzic.

The produce of these two provinces was never large, and has only found its way to the sea-shore when,

very high prices have enabled it to bear the expense and risk of conveying it thither.

The whole stock of wheat may be now brought into one point ; and appears as follows :

	Quarters.
Pomerania	67,103
Dantzic and Elbing	61,500
Lubeck	329,900
	<hr/>
	458,503
<i>Conjectural.</i>	•
Denmark	25,000
Rostock and Wismar	25,000
Petersburgh, Riga, and Memel...	100,000
	<hr/>
	608,503
<i>In ports in the North Sea, as ascertained.</i>	
Hamburgh.....	105,000
Bremen.....	27,970
	<hr/>
Total	741,473

Of the wheat to which I have referred, as accumulated in the several ports, I was assured nearly one-fourth part is of so bad a quality, as to find no market in this country, except in seasons of uncommon dearth. If then, out of the whole 741,473 quarters, 556,330 quarters were to be sent to England, it would not be more than the consumption of ten days.

The provinces forming, since the adjustment of territory, at the termination of the late war, a part of the Prussian monarchy, which have access to the Baltic sea, comprehend East Prussia, West Prussia, and Pomerania. They appear, by the official accounts (see Appendix, No. 10), to have exported 447,183 quarters of wheat, and 1,218,916 quarters of rye, barley, and oats, beyond their own growth, in the last nine years, up to the end of 1824 ; exclusive of the year 1818, the returns of which, for

East Prussia, are wanting, but which probably were 350,000 quarters of wheat, and 340,000 quarters of the other grains.

It is possible that some portion of this quantity may have been produced in the internal contiguous provinces of Posen, Silesia, and Brandenburg. As the trade in corn, between one province and another, is free in Prussia, there are no official accounts by which we can ascertain whether what is exported by sea, is the produce of the province from which it is shipped, or of some inland district.

As the special object of attention pointed out by my instructions, was the state of the countries, from which corn had been exported to England, I shall, therefore, in representing the state of the agriculturc, confine my observations chiefly to the three maritime provinces before mentioned, but including in some degree the province of Brandenburg.

Before the year 1807, the landed estates in Prussia, as in most other parts of Europe, were in the possession of large proprietors. Many of them could only be held by such as were of noble birth ; and the merchant, the manufacturer, or the artisan, however much money he might have accumulated, could not invest it in such land until he had obtained a patent of nobility. These restrictions were removed by the king, about the year 1807, when the French had overrun the country.

A tenantry in our sense of the term was then, as it still is, almost unknown. The land was worked by a class of persons, in some respects slaves ; and in most respects but little removed from that condition. In many cases they had an hereditary kind of right to some use of the land, such as to grow one crop of corn according to a prescribed course, whilst the lord had the right of pasture between the crops. These peasants were

sold with the land, or descended to the heir, and were bound to perform certain labour or services for the lord. They could not, on the other hand, be dismissed from their holdings, nor had their superior any power over the property they might happen to be able to accumulate.

The conditions upon which the peasants held their portions of land, were very various, some having a greater, and others a less share of the use of them; some doing greater, and others less service for them.

By a series of legislative measures, marked by a character of peculiar boldness, which were enacted from 1807 to 1811, the whole of the enslaved peasants have become converted into freemen and freeholders. In some cases the holdings have been equally divided, and the peasant has his moiety in perpetuity. In cases where the lords' claims for personal services were more extensive, the peasant had a smaller share in the land. In some instances, compensations in money were settled by compact between the lords and the peasants, sometimes by the payment of a fixed sum, or by a security on the land allotted in perpetuity, to the peasant, for the payment of such sum. Sometimes the peasant retained the whole of the land he had before used, paying to the lord the value of that portion which might otherwise have been given up to him.

The successive measures by which the peasants were raised to the rank of freemen, were not received by all with equal readiness. The lords were compelled, but the peasants were allowed to decline compliance; and even to the present day, some few prefer the ancient mode of their holdings, to that which the laws have allowed.

Although the foundation is laid for a new and better order of things, yet its effects on the agriculture of the

country have not hitherto been fully realized. The abolition of personal services, and of hereditary ownership of such services, has been too recent for the full operation of the change of the parties, from the relation of master and slave, to that of employer and employed, to produce the effect which is its natural tendency. It is obvious, that all the operations of agriculture are still performed by the labourers, with a listlessness and slovenly indolence which was natural to their former character, and which their new condition has not yet had time to remove.

The land in the three maritime provinces, as indeed in almost the whole of Prussia, may be considered as either in very large portions belonging to the nobility, or to the new class of proprietors; or in very small portions, such as under the ancient system were deemed sufficient for half the maintenance of the family of a peasant. There are but very few of that middle class of capitalists, resembling our farmers, who can hire land to that extent, which one able man can most advantageously manage, and after stocking and working it, pay for the hire to the proprietor.

With some few exceptions, and those very few, no rent is paid, but each occupier, whether a large or a small one, is his own landlord.

The deviations from this general view are to be found, for the most part on the banks of the great rivers, where meadows, either for the purpose of fattening cattle, or of saving hay, for the supply of large towns near the mouths of these rivers, are let to tenants for money rents. On the banks of the Oder, near Stettin, I saw some meadows let from 10s. to 12s. per acre, the landlords paying land-tax. They are said to yield about one ton and a half annually of hay, when mowed. The after-feed is worth little, from the early floods in autumn,

and the deep snows and severe frosts in winter. The hay is not very good, which is attributed to the great quickness of the growth, after the frosts disappear. Land of this description is of less relative value than with us, from the severe cold, and its long duration; from there being scarcely any of the interval of spring, and from the great drought and excessive heat of the short summer. I was informed, that similar land, higher on the Oder, near the cities of Schwet, Custrin, and Frankfort, was let at nearly the same rate. Lands in the vicinity of the large towns, and in other situations, from local convenience, may be sometimes let for money rent; but these are exceptions to the general plan, and the whole of such land bears but a very small proportion to that which is cultivated by its owners.

The domains of the crown are differently circumstanced from other land, and are let to farmers. The greatest part is in the occupation of persons, whose ancestors had long held them at low rents, without their being charged to the land-tax or Grund Steuer. When by new laws the taxation on land was extended to the estates of nobles, those of the crown were included, and charged with the tax. At first the high prices which corn bore, enabled the occupiers to pay the trifling rent, as well as the tax; but as corn declined in price, they became unable to pay both. The taxes were in most instances paid, but the rent was suffered to run in arrear, from the impossibility of extracting it from the tenants. I was informed by a very intelligent gentleman, who had sufficient means of information, that most of the occupiers of the royal domains whose rent was ten years in arrears, had been forgiven the whole, on promising to make the payments regularly in future; a promise they are in general

unable to fulfil, from the great additional fall in the price of corn which has since taken place.

These national domains are of such various qualities, and in such different localities, that it is difficult to find what is the average rent of them per acre. Some of them are let as high as 3*s.* 8*d.* per acre, a much larger proportion at 1*s.* 2*d.*, and a larger still from 6*d.* to 9*d.* As far as my means of information can enable me to form a judgment, I should not estimate the average rent to exceed, if it reaches, 1*s.* 3*d.* per acre. The farm of Subbowitz, whose produce is noticed in the Appendix, No. 11, which is considered fair average land, consists of about 1720 acres, and is let for 158*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* sterling per year. That of Subkau, also noticed in the same statement, consisting of 3054 acres, is some of the best land, the rent of which is about 552*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* sterling per annum.

These two farms, with the others, noticed in the same paper, are occupied by some of the most skilful cultivators of the district; and yet the accounts show, that small as the rent is, and judicious as the management may be, the produce falls short of the cost of production, even though the rent should be given up.

Although the royal domains are here noticed, they bear a small proportion to the whole land, in the province of West Prussia, where they are situated, not exceeding one-sixtieth part of the whole.

The value of land generally is low, as may be inferred from the low price of produce, and of rents for what little is rented. An estate of medium soil was put up to auction, and not producing an offer, equal to the sum for which it was mortgaged, was taken by the mortgagee. The extent is about 6000 morgens, or about 4200 acres. It is chiefly a thin sandy soil,

in some few parts approaching to loam. The principal and interest due to the mortgagee was 3000*l.* for which sum he took the estate. The barns, and other tenements, were in need of some repairs, and the land far from being in a clean state. On taking possession, as he could not let it, he had calculated to expend, as he told me, betwixt 2200*l.* and 2300*l.* to repair the tenements, and to stock it with 1500 Merino sheep, 40 cows, and with bullocks, horses, and the requisite implements. This gentleman, who had acquired his money by trade, and knew how to calculate, hoped, by the fleeces of his fine-woolled sheep, to draw some interest for the investment he had been compelled to make in land.

In the same part of Prussia, another estate, one of the best in the district, with a good house, with all the buildings in repair, and the land in a high state of cultivation, was offered for sale, and though when I was there, the sale was not completed, I had reason to believe an agreement for it would speedily be concluded.

The soil is good sandy loam, chiefly arable, with some pasture, the extent 2800 acres. The price, at which I believe the contract to have been since made, was between 5200*l.* and 5400*l.*

If these two instances may be taken, as nearly the highest and the lowest price of the average arable land of the maritime provinces of Prussia, the highest limit will be somewhat less than 40*s.* the acre, and the lowest not quite 15*s.* per acre. This estimation of the value of land, if correct, in the maritime provinces, cannot be extended to the other parts of the Prussian dominions, where both the soil and climate are far more favourable to production. It is well known in England, that under a great depression in the price of corn, the poorer lands suffer a much greater

proportionate depreciation in their sale price, than the more fertile soils. It is not then extraordinary, that the landed property of these maritime provinces should be reduced to the low value which is here represented.

This tract of land forming the maritime provinces of Prussia, is a portion of that vast sandy plain which extends from the shores of Holland to the extremity of Asiatic Russia. It has scarcely any elevations that merit the title of hills, and, where not covered with woods, spreads out in open fields of great extent. The soil in some places is barren sand, occasionally with no appearance of vegetation; in many parts with no attempt at cultivation, and what is cultivated, appearing to yield but scanty returns. The land is too poor to yield even middling crops, without manure, and the portion of cattle of all kinds, is too small to create such a quantity of that necessary ingredient in husbandry, as to keep the land up to its present low standard of fertility.

According to the official documents which I collected, it appears that the three maritime provinces of East Prussia, West Prussia, and Pomerania, including in the latter the late Swedish territory, contain about 25,500,000 acres, or more than half the extent of England. By an official account, made up in 1821, the stock of cattle appeared to be as follows, at the latter end of the year 1819, viz. :

556,839 horses and colts.

1,171,434 oxen, cows, and calves.

2,049,801 sheep and lambs,—and

617,310 swine.

The lowest estimate of the stock of cattle in England, which I have ever met with, gives three times this number of horses, and more than four times the number of cows and sheep, to the same extent of land; and most of those who have calculated on the subject, have carried the proportion of cattle

to surface in England, much higher. I had reason to believe, though not from official sources, that the number of sheep, between 1819 and 1824, had increased at the rate of from 20 to 25 per cent, and that the proportion of fine-woolled sheep to those of coarse wool, had been augmented beyond that proportion.

From this deficient stock of the animals, from which manure is derived, it will naturally be inferred, that the increase of grain must be very small. I was satisfied, from my own observations, and it was confirmed by the opinion of intelligent natives, that much of the land in cultivation could not yield on the average more than three times as much corn as the seed that had been sown.

The calculations made by the most intelligent statistical inquirers, and the most observing cultivators, have not estimated the average increase of the four kinds of grain, viz. wheat, rye, barley, oats, taken together, to be more than four times the seed.

The general course of cultivation is to fallow every third year, by ploughing three times, when designed for rye, or five times, if intended for wheat, and allowing the land to rest without any crop during the whole of the year, from one autumn to the next. Most of the land is deemed to be unfit for the growth of wheat, under any circumstances. Where it is deemed adapted to that grain, as much as can be manured, from their scanty supply of that article, is sown with wheat, and the remainder of the fallow ground with rye. The portion which is destined for wheat, even in the best farms, is thus very small; and as on many none is sown, the whole of the land devoted to wheat, does not amount to one-tenth of that on which rye is grown.

I have reason to believe, that of late years the proportion of rye to wheat

has been increasing. The first is an article of domestic consumption, and of universal demand; with regard to the latter, the far greater number of the inhabitants only eat bread made from it from necessity, and those who can afford wheaten bread eat commonly that of rye from choice. At the tables of the first families, both in Germany and Poland, though wheaten bread was always to be seen, I remarked that the natives scarcely ever tasted it: and I have met many Englishmen, who, after a long residence in those countries, have given the preference to bread of rye.

From the time I left the Netherlands, through Saxony, Prussia, Poland, Austria, Bavaria, and Wurtemberg, till I entered France, I never saw, either in the bakers' shops, in the hotels, or private houses, a loaf of wheaten bread. In every large town, small rolls, made of wheaten flour, could be purchased, and they were to be seen at the tables at which foreigners were seated. In the small towns and villages only rye bread can be obtained; and travellers commonly take in their carriages sufficient wheaten rolls to supply them from one large town to the next. Wheat is only used by the natives for making, what our English bakers would call fancy bread, or in pastry and confectionery. If there be no foreign demand for wheat, the difficulty of selling it, at any price, is great; and that little, which the very limited demand of other countries of late years has required, has been confined to wheat of the very best quality; for rye, on the other hand, sales may be always made at a market price; and the price of that grain has not been depressed in the same proportion as the price of wheat.

Although the increase of wheat is greater than that of rye, yet, as it absorbs all the manure of the farm, and requires the land to be ploughed

twice more, it is now deemed to be the least profitable of the two crops, by many of the farmers.

As the rye receives the full benefit of the fallow, its increase is greater than that of the spring crops which follow it.

Barley and oats are sown in the spring which follows the harvesting the wheat and rye, and these complete the course, which is again followed by a whole year's fallow. By this rotation of crops, the land bears corn only two years out of every three; and the crop of the last year scarcely produces three times the quantity of the seed that was sown.

This opinion, formed by my own observations, strengthened by the reports of the most intelligent persons with whom I conversed, who were connected with practical agriculture, receives some confirmation from a paper furnished to me by Mr Leutze, his Majesty's consul at Stettin; according to which, in 1805, the year previous to that in which the country was overrun by the French, the quantities of corn sowed and harvested in the province of Pomerania, when the Swedish part was not incorporated with it, are as follow :

	<i>Bushels sown.</i>	<i>Bushels produced.</i>
Wheat . . .	155,996	996,224
Rye . . .	1,254,960	4,383,584
Barley . . .	619,992	2,757,688
Oats . . .	1,245,704	2,975,880

This view of the low rate of increase, is further confirmed by the official accounts of the produce of several farms in West Prussia, (see Appendix, No. 11, B.) by which it appears, that on six farms, on which 4864 acres are cultivated with corn, the produce was only taken at 10,000 quarters in 1824, which is represented to be a favourable year.

Though some few of the large pro-

prietors may, by the increase of their flocks of sheep, and by the assiduous attention to every branch of cultivation, have improved their land, and raised the increase of their seed, I see no reason to believe that to be the case to an extent, which can have a sensible influence on the average of the whole mass of production.

If we consider the calamities which Prussia endured, and the strenuous exertions she made to terminate them, we shall scarcely suppose that the interval from 1815 to 1825 has been sufficient to regain what she had lost, in the eight years which preceded that period, more especially as, up to the present time, the market prices of her chief productions have been suffering a regular decline.

I should not deem the other maritime provinces of Prussia to be much more productive than Pomerania, as a whole, though in East and West Prussia there is rather a larger proportion of the land that is capable of producing crops of wheat and oats. It will happen to a traveller, in pursuit of agricultural information, even in England, and much more in countries where the business of cultivation is conducted in a much lower manner, that his attention will be invited to those properties which are best managed where the several processes of husbandry are most sedulously performed, and where the produce is the greatest. Hence almost every writer on agricultural subjects has been led to overrate the actual average produce of land, in the several countries which he may have visited.

Like others, I was prevailed upon to pay the closest attention to the details and face of the land of the most skilful, the most affluent, and most productive proprietors. I visited several noblemen, whose knowledge of, and attention to, agriculture, was fully equal to that of any men in this or

any other country : and if the produce of the land was not equal to that raised by our best farmers, the difference must be attributed rather to the soil and climate than to any deficiency either of capital, of skill, or of assiduity.

On such property, the wheat sown was very insignificant, and the proportion of that grain to rye, had gradually declined of late years. One nobleman, who farmed his estate of 26,000 acres, of which two-thirds was tillage, and one-third woodland, grew but a few acres of wheat, and of late had sold no corn of any kind. From the ports of England being shut against corn, he had turned his attention to the production of fine wool. On this estate there is a flock of 15,000 Merino sheep, yielding on an average two and a half pounds of fine wool, the annual sales of which amount to one-half more than the value of the sheep. Through the five winter months, the sheep are fed with corn, chiefly rye, at the rate of one pound per day, which is estimated to be equal to three pounds of hay. The proprietor calculated, that sheep thus kept yielded nearly as much more wool as, added to the benefit which the manure of the animals received from that kind of food, was equal to the price he should have received for the corn, if he had sold it ; and that the profit, on this system, was the value of the whole of the hay, which would have been otherwise consumed. Instead of selling, he finds it more profitable to buy corn.

On the same property, the extent of land planted with potatoes, was upwards of 1500 morgens, or about 1000 acres, the chief part of which were used in the distillery, which seems an indispensable adjunct to every well-managed farm. The calculation made there was, that two bushels of potatoes yielded as much ardent spirit as one of barley ; and that the residuum,

after extracting the spirit, was equal, in alimentary power, for the draft bullocks, which are fed with it, to two-thirds of its value, before the wort was extracted from it. By the process on this estate, nine bushels of potatoes are mixed with one of malt, to draw the wort, which is afterwards distilled, so as to produce a spirit containing 80 per cent of alcohol, in which state it pays a duty (much complained of) of sixpence per gallon. It is reduced, before it is sold, till it retains 50 per cent of alcohol ; and the price charged to the retailers is about fourteen pence per gallon.

Another person of the same rank, who had turned his attention to the improvement of his property, boasted that his corn land already yielded near six-fold for the seed that was sown, and could be further increased. He, too, cultivated potatoes very extensively, and, by converting them into starch and treacle, made that land yield a profit which, had it been devoted to corn, would have produced a loss. He had tried to make sugar from potatoes, and found it not advantageous ; but he assured me that treacle paid him well, and he could afford to sell it at 18s. per cwt., whilst that from the West Indies cost 24s. I could perceive no difference between the sweetness of this treacle and that from the tropics, but it has less consistency.

A nobleman whom I had before known, to whose hospitality I am much indebted, and whose estate I viewed in detail, took the trouble to furnish me with the course of cultivation he pursued on the property on which he resides, (see Appendix, No. 12). Though cultivated with care, and though fairly productive, I readily give credit to what he assured me,—that the whole benefit which he derived from the estate of 6300 acres, in his joint capacity of landlord and cul-

tivator, had not exceeded the amount for which he had sold his annual clip of the wool of his flock of 4000 sheep.

On the several other estates that I viewed, the recurrence of corn crops was equally distant; the superior portion of land devoted to green crops and pasture the same; and the stock of cattle bore nearly a like proportion. These, however, were exceptions, few in number and confined in extent, when compared with the general condition of the estates of the three provinces.

A number of proprietors, residing on their lands, devoting their time and attention to its improvement, and acquiring the practical and economical habits which their affairs render necessary, must have a beneficial influence on the cultivators around them. In this view, perhaps, the distress which has been occasioned by the depressed prices of agricultural produce, may, at some future time, under happier auspices, be highly advantageous to the community. But, in the meantime, the influence of the best specimens of cultivation have been very limited. Few of the proprietors have any capital to buy sheep or other stock, or to enable them to wait for those returns of their outlays, which come in with the most dilatory pace where the management of land is the best. He who has to answer the demands of the labourers, the tax collectors, and, where it occurs, of the gatherer of rent, or of interest on mortgages, must sell his corn, at any price that is offered for it, without waiting to convert it into wool, as the nobleman to whom I have alluded is enabled to do. It is more the state of embarrassment, in which almost all the proprietors are placed, than the want of knowledge or of assiduity, that prevents the agriculture of the Prussian dominions from making more considerable advances.

Formerly, the majority of the estates, as belonging to nobles, and only capable of being held by that class, were nearly inalienable; but the necessity of relieving the most harassed of that body, induced the government to form a plan by which money might be borrowed on the security of land. At first, this power was confined to the lands of the nobles, but was afterwards extended to all others.

The *landschaft*, or states, a local assembly of the principal proprietors, were authorized to make a valuation of such estates as were to be mortgaged, and to issue writings, denominated *pfandbriefe*, or mortgage debentures, which bore interest, and were transferable with little trouble and expense, on which one-half, and in some instances six-tenths of the *landschaft's* valuation was easily borrowed. As the valuations of the estates were made upon a low scale of the prices of produce, and on a low estimate of the annual quantum of such produce, they were deemed the best security that could be offered. In a country where no government funds were in existence, or none in which the public had much confidence, these kind of securities became the natural deposits of such accumulations of money as were not intended to be exposed to any risks. Hence, the fortunes of widows and orphans, the capital of churches, schools, hospitals, and charitable institutions of various descriptions were invested in such securities. From 1794, when the valuations were made, the gradual rise of the prices of the produce made the payment of the interests on the debts very slightly burdensome, and such was the regularity with which the interest was paid, and such the confidence in the security, that those *pfandbriefe* became worth a premium of ten per cent, and sometimes even of more.

At the time of the valuation, the system of duty work, as known in France by the name of *corvées*, was general. The taxes on the land, for the families who fell in defence of their country in the late war, and for such as were disabled, were not imposed, and those for the local purposes of roads, bridges, the poor, and other objects, were much lower than they are at present. Whilst by gradual steps, for the last ten years, the price of all kinds of corn, except of wheat, which is the smallest portion, has fallen below those at which the valuations were calculated in the year 1794, the increase of taxes and of the prices of labour have been advancing. Thus many of the estates which for the first twenty years could easily discharge the demands upon them, are now become utterly unable to meet those demands. I had heard so many tales of the distress occasioned by this course of events, that I wished to ascertain the extent of it as accurately as possible. Having found in Mr Rothe, the president of West Prussia, as well a disposition to communicate information of every kind, as the qualities of accuracy and discrimination, I was induced to submit to him in writing, some queries on this, as well as on some other subjects, which he very politely and speedily answered.

The replies, in Appendix, No. 11. (A.) show, that of 262 estates, within the limits of the *landschaft's* authority, 193 are encumbered with mortgages, and only 67, about a quarter, are free from those encumbrances. Of the 195 estates so encumbered, 71 were already in a state of sequestration, a remedy to which none of the mortgagees would have recourse but in cases of extremity. I was more than once told, with what truth I would hesitate to say, that most of the 67 large estates not appearing in the Hy-

pothecation books to be encumbered, had been prevented by testamentary or other family settlements, from being brought within the circle of the *landschaft's* valuation. I was informed by an intelligent man, who is a member of the states, that many estates have been suffered to remain in the possession of the nominal proprietors, because the interest of the money lent on them ceases as soon as a process is commenced, and because they cannot be sold for so much as has been advanced on them; besides which, when in a state of sequestration, they are so carelessly managed by officers of the government, that they become from bad to worse.

The mortgagees are thus induced to leave them in the hands of the apparent owners, in the hope of a change of times, and from the fear of diminishing, still more, the value of their slight security. Besides these mortgages, which are registered in the hypothecation books of the *landschaft*, many of these large estates, when the value of the produce was very high, were enabled to borrow, on subsequent mortgages, which, as they are of no validity till those registered are liberated, have, in many instances, been attended with a total loss to the lenders.

It is obvious, that what which for a long period has been deemed the most secure, if not the only secure investment for money, becomes of no avail, the consequence must be highly distressing, and peculiarly so, because the principal suffering must, of necessity, fall on those least able to contend with the adverse circumstances in which they are placed.

The new proprietors, who have been raised to that condition by the abolition of the ancient feudal tenures, though they can scarcely ever want the bare necessities of life, have very

little beyond them. If they happen to be both industrious and economical, their own labour, on the small portion of land which they possess, will supply them with potatoes and some little bread corn, as well as provision for their two oxen. They all grow a small patch of flax, and some contrive to keep five or six sheep. If disposed to labour beyond the time required for their own land, there is a difficulty in obtaining employment; and in the winter months, which are long and severely cold, no agricultural work can be performed. The flax and the wool spun in their cottages must supply the clothing of the family; and the fat of the animals they kill must be converted into soap and candles. Meat of any kind can be rarely afforded to be eaten by such families; and only the few who are more prosperous than their neighbours can keep a cow to supply them with milk. They consume nearly all they produce, and are considered happy if they have a sufficient surplus for sale to meet the demands of a few shillings annually for the payment of their trifling taxes and local assessments. It was the universal opinion of all with whom I had any conversation on the topic, that this description of peasants were hitherto in a worse condition than under the old tenures; and as this was attributed to the depression of agriculture, and the want of capital, and of incitement to the large occupiers to employ their spare time, it was not considered to be an impeachment of the wisdom which had planned and executed their emancipation.

Though the rate of wages is very low (see Appendix, No. 11), not averaging more than fivepence per day, yet the day labourers who have constant employment, with a cottage, potatoe ground, and flax patch, are said to be somewhat better circum-

stanced than those persons who have been recently raised from the feudal ranks to that of freehold proprietors.

Those labourers who are boarded in the houses of their employers, have a sufficiency of food, consisting of rye bread, potatoes, of buck-wheat made into soups of various kinds; and in many instances are provided with meat (commonly bacon) twice a-week.

The aged and infirm poor have demanded consideration only since the abolition of the feudal tenure. Before that period, each lord considered himself bound to assist in their support, and generally attended to that duty where the deficiency of means in the power of the relations of the aged and infirm made it requisite. A regular system of taxation for the poor has not yet been introduced, though the first steps towards it have been taken. The assessment for the widows and orphans of those who fell in the late conflicts, and for such as were disabled in the service, has been already noticed. It is kept distinct from all other levies, and is of course gradually diminishing in amount, as the persons entitled to receive it are removed by death. The money requisite for the other poor is supplied from local funds, arising from general assessments, made for the maintenance of bridges, for repair of roads, drains, and embankments, for the support of schools, and for some other similar purposes. The practice of supporting the indigent is of very recent date, and has not hitherto produced the effect of lessening the sympathy which the needy feel for each other, or the charity which the more affluent exercise towards their distressed neighbours; and the sense of shame yet remains as a bar against application to the communal taxes, except in the greatest extremity.

A very intelligent and benevolent

nobleman, at whose house I spent a few days, assured me that, in the extensive but thinly peopled district, where he had a share in directing the assessments and expenditure of the local taxes, there was but one family which subsisted wholly on those taxes; and that others depended on the kindness of relatives and friends, with some occasional assistance from the local fund.

In general, the soil of the maritime provinces of Prussia is so light, that it may be easily ploughed with two oxen, and those of diminished size, and no great strength. I have not unfrequently seen, on the smaller portions of land, a single cow drawing the plough; and whilst the plough was guided by the owner, the cow was led by his wife. The more tenacious soils, on the banks of the streams, are commonly but of small extent. There is indeed a large portion of land in the Delta, formed by the separation of the Nogat from the Vistula, between Derschau and Marienburg, which, under a good system of management, would be highly productive, and which requires greater strength to plough it. There are some others, especially near Tilsit, of less extent; but the whole of them, if compared with the great extent of the surface of the country, are merely sufficient to form exceptions to the general classification which may be made of the soil. The various implements of husbandry are quite of as low a description as the working cattle. The ploughs are ill constructed, with very little iron in them. The harrows are made of wood, without any iron, even for the tines or teeth. The waggons are mere planks, laid on the frame loose, and resting against upright stakes, fixed into its sides. The cattle are attached to these implements by ropes, without leather in any part of the harness. The use of the roller is scarcely known,

and the clods, in preparing the fallow ground, are commonly broken to pieces by hand with wooden mallets. In sowing, the seed is carried in the apron, or the skirts of the frock, of the man who scatters it on the ground.

The monied value of the live stock on the farms is low. The best flocks of Merino sheep, exclusive of the wool, is averaged to be worth about 6*s.* or 6*s.* 8*d.* per head. Cows are worth from 30*s.* to 65*s.* A dairy which I saw, of the best description, was let to a dairyman at 36*s.* per year. The owner told me he valued them at 75*s.* per head, and thought the average weight of the butter from each, the calf being taken from the mother when ten days old, was about 120*lbs.* each year. The variation in the price of cows is much greater than in that of sheep, according to their race, to the soil on which they are pastured, and to the distance from large towns requiring supplies of milk and butter. The price of hay varies, according to the situation and quality, from 14*s.* to 20*s.* the ton.

The general burdens of the state in Prussia, are the subject of complaints among all classes; and although they may appear to us to amount to a very small sum, rated by the number of persons, they must be considered heavy in a country so destitute of little other capital than that of land, now vastly depreciated in value. The whole taxes in Prussia amount to 10*s.* per head; but the effective value of money, in exchange for commodities, may be considered to be double what it is with us.

Those taxes pressing peculiarly on the land are, first, the *grund steuer*, or land-tax. This is not, however, imposed in each province, but only in those where it existed before they were united to the Prussian monarchy. This is not levied in Brandenburg, though it is collected in each

of the three maritime provinces, which are the subjects of more immediate consideration. This tax was designed to be 25 per cent on the net value, or annual rent of the land, and, when imposed, was an equable burden. In process of time, from the improvement of some estates, and the neglect of others, and from a variety of other causes, that rate, which was originally equal, has become in practice at the present day very unequal.

The land is divided into six classes, the rent of the lowest of which is estimated to be about 7*d.* per acre, and that of the highest about 4*s.* an acre. On this amount the tax is 25 per cent, and averages, in the three maritime provinces, somewhat less than 3*d.* per acre. The gross amount collected in the three provinces annually, according to Hassel, is about L.265,000 sterling.

The local taxes, which have been already noticed, do not fall wholly on the land. That for the disabled soldiers, and the families of such as fell in the conflicts, is, in part, borne by the cities and towns, though the chief weight falls on the land. The same, in some measure, is the case respecting the tax for roads, bridges, schools, and the poor. These are various in different districts, so that it is impossible to form any general estimate of their amount. In some parts of the country I was told, that the local taxes were equal to the *grund steuer* in their district; in some, that it was higher—and in others, that it did not amount to one-tenth. Among the cultivators, I heard much complaint of the heavy tax on the distilleries. As far as the tax operates to diminish the consumption of the grain, or other products of the land from which spirits may be extracted, it is a burden on the land; but I have reason to believe that, from the mode in which

the tax is collected, those who have distilleries on their farms, by paying the tax at a high degree of strength, and supplying it to the retailers at a lower strength, are so far from being aggrieved, that they are really benefited by the tax.

The village clergy have commonly a house, some glebe land, and a fixed annual portion of corn, which, in most cases, is delivered to them by the lord, in pursuance of an ancient arrangement. The quantity has been long since defined, and not being subject to any alteration, is scarcely ever spoken of as a burden on the land.

The other taxes bear no more on the persons employed in agriculture than on those engaged in pursuits of a different kind. They are chiefly on the consumption of foreign commodities attaching to the consumers, from whatever sources they may draw the revenues by which they are enabled to indulge in the use of them.

The military service is extremely onerous, as every young man is compelled to serve three years, from the age of twenty to twenty-four, as a soldier. This, though not precisely a tax, and not peculiar to the agricultural class, is a burden which, perhaps, presses as much on the productive industry of the country, as the heavier taxes that are collected in other countries. To this must be added the quartering of the troops, who are billeted on private houses; and however well discipline may be maintained amongst them, must be a great annoyance, and, in most cases, an expense, which, though apparently trifling in amount, becomes weighty to those whose means of supporting it are small.

In a country where four-fifths of the inhabitants subsist wholly by producing food, and depend for the conveniences besides bare food, on the

price which they can obtain for their surplus, the low rate at which that surplus can be disposed of must be felt and observed in every rank of society.

The scale of living in the country we are considering, corresponds with the low prices of the objects in which their labour is employed. The working class of the inhabitants, amounting in the maritime provinces to upwards of a million, including both those who work for daily wages, and those who cultivate their own little portions of land, cannot be compared to any class of persons in England. This large description of the inhabitants live in dwellings provided with few conveniences, on the lowest and coarsest food; potatoes, or rye, or buck-wheat, are their chief, and frequently their only food; linen, from flax of their own growth; and wool, spun by their own hands, both coarse, and both worn as long as they will hold together, furnish their dress; whilst an earthen pot, that will bear fire, forms one of the most valuable articles of their furniture.

As fuel is abundant, they are warmed more by close stoves than by the shelter of their wooden or mudhouses, covered by shingles, which admit the piercing cold of the severe weather through abundant crevices. If they have bees and a plot of chicory, their produce serves as a substitute for sugar and coffee; but too often these must be sent to market to raise the scanty pittance which the tax-gatherer demands. Though the price of whisky is low, yet the farm produce is still lower, and neither that nor the bad beer which is commonly brewed, can be afforded by the peasantry as a usual drink.

In common seasons this description of people suffer much in the winter, but, in times of scarcity such as followed the disastrous harvest of 1816, their distress, and their conse-

quent mortality, is largely increased. It is not intended to insinuate that all the small farmers are in the circumstances here described. In some situations there is a most pleasing difference:—on the banks of the Oder, below Kustrin, a colony is established on a rich tract of land, called the Neiderung, recovered by embankment from the river. The inhabitants were invited here on account of a persecution of the Protestants in Bavaria and the Palatinate, during the reign of Frederick the Great. They are exempt from most burdens, the soil is highly fertile, and the district more resembles some parts of Flanders than the other districts of Prussia. The properties are from six to twenty acres, but are subdivided as the population increases, as each of the sons shares the land alike. It is thickly peopled, and most of the produce is consumed on the spot where it grows.

A similar district near Dantzic, on the banks of the Vistula, called the Neherung, exhibits a similar picture. The chief inhabitants are a religious sect, called Menonites, whose principles forbid them to become soldiers, from which they are excused, on condition of paying a higher rate of taxation.

On the banks of the Niemen, and in some other spots, are similar groups of small occupiers in tolerably easy circumstances. They are, however, not a thirtieth part of the whole of the class, and where they occur are only exceptions to the general description.

As these people happen to be placed in spots of rare fertility, to be freed from some imposts, and to be distinguished by their sobriety, industry, and economy, they are going on increasing in numbers till, in a few years, the division of land will be so great as to cause the necessity of removal to less-peopled districts.

The representation of the distressed state of the agricultural inhabitants of this part of the Prussian dominions which has been here given, receives confirmation from the proceedings of the *landschaft*, or assembly of the provincial states of Prussia, in their last session. The address of the assembly has not been made public, but is said to have been framed in very melancholy strains, and to have urged the king to take some measures of a decided nature, respecting the introduction of British goods, in order to induce our government to make some alteration in the corn laws. Whatever may have been the representation of the states, the reply of the king, which has been published, gives an air of probability to the rumours, that it had an object, in some degree, of this kind :—

“ With regard to the prayer for an intercession with the English government to repeal the corn bill, his majesty expressed a hope that, to improve the intercourse between the two nations, a change will take place in the English corn laws.”

Berlin, 26th November, 1825. From the Hamburg paper—the Correspondent.

One of the effects of the agricultural distress, which was visible in the condition of the inhabitants, seemed to be a decrease in the cultivation of bread corn.

The replies of the president Rothe, (see Appendix, No. 11. B.) shows that on six farms, amounting together to 10,390 acres, of which eight years ago 6926 acres were cultivated with grain, there are at present only 4864 acres applied to that purpose. Mr Gibson, his majesty's consul at Dantzig, states, in a letter received since my return, dated 24th Novem-

ber 1825, that the “ cultivation of wheat has been much circumscribed of late years ; and that it will take much time to extend it ; that flax is cultivated now to a much greater degree than formerly in East, and parts of West Prussia ; that the export of butter is increasing very much ; that rape seed is attracting much attention ; and that these circumstances, with the breeding of sheep, will further operate in diminishing the production of grain.” It appears, too, by the official returns of exports, (see Appendix, No. 10,) that the excess of export of corn in the years 1821, 1822, and 1823, had much declined from those of former years ; and that, in the year 1824, the maritime provinces of Prussia, instead of having any surplus of wheat, imported 47,236 quarters more than they exported. This quantity may probably have been added to the former accumulation ; but, if so, it is still evidence of a decline in the actual produce of wheat in the Prussian territories.

Those Prussian provinces to which my chief attention was directed, have never been manufacturing districts, although they have, during a long series of years, made both linen and woollen cloths for their own use. They have had rather domestic labour than any establishment for the purpose ; of late, however, attempts have commenced upon a larger scale, and projects were in agitation of various kinds, for making woollens and cottons in manufactories, where the aid of machinery was to be applied. The chief inducements to these attempts were the low price of provisions, and the consequent expectation of a low rate of labour. They were, however, but attempts, and were not viewed with any very promising expectations by the persons I had any opportunity of conversing with on the

subject. They seem to be rather the creations of the government, than the spontaneous issue of the deliberate calculations of capitalists, seeking for beneficial modes of employing their money.

The only kind of goods that I heard of, calculated for distant markets, are some made of the native coarse wool, dyed deep blue, trials to introduce which have been made in England. These are made by some small farmers who were employed in the summer on the land. They are made out of 18lbs. or 20lbs. of wool, worth about sixpence per pound. The spinning is performed by the females of the family, whilst the father weaves them. It employs him three days to weave a piece, which is about sixteen yards in length, and forty-two inches wide. The value of his day's work was stated to be ninepence, thus making that part of the labour which he executed, to be 2s. 3d. The fulling is performed at a public mill, and the finishing and dyeing are executed in Berlin, by persons who send their agents to the farmhouses to collect the cloths in their rough state. I was told that these kind of cloths might be afforded in London at little more than 2s. per yard, and were calculated for negro clothing. As the spinning is the most material part of the labour, and that is performed at leisure time, the maker's gain is the whole of that, as the time would be otherwise unemployed. Manufactures of this kind are useful in the state of society which exists where these goods are fabricated, but the limits to their extension is necessarily very confined.

I have no reason to think that hitherto the low price of corn has had the effect of lowering the price of manufacturing labour, in any degree approaching to the depression which the products of the soil have experienced. In the building of ships, which is in-

deed the chief manufactory of the maritime provinces, the rates of wages have very considerably fallen, not, indeed, so much as bread, but to an extent that has increased the building of vessels, and induced some English houses to contract for the building of Prussian vessels to be employed in distant voyages.

The effect, however, of the low prices of agricultural produce, is more experienced in the provisions for the crew, than in the cost of the construction of the ships. This may be seen in the cost of food for a Prussian ship, in the Appendix, No. 13. It is true that our seamen are accustomed to better food than the Prussians, but their superior professional skill makes up for the difference. Besides, as the Baltic is frozen several months in the year, the loss of time seems to be more, than a compensation for the differences in the price of food.

In pursuance of the instructions that were given to me by your lordships, I made every attempt in my power to ascertain the actual cost of the wheat to the growers of that grain in Prussia. Whoever has made similar attempts in this country, however well he may have been acquainted with all the practical details, even if he could obtain, with most scrupulous accuracy, the amount of seed sown and harvested, has found them attended with such difficulties, as to afford no great degree of confidence in the results obtained.

Thus, for instance, in our common four years' course of turnips, barley, clover and wheat, though it may be easy to ascertain the whole expenditure in rent, taxes, labour, manure, interest of capital, and deterioration in the working cattle and utensils during the four years, yet scarcely any two persons will agree in the apportioning that expenditure to each of the four crops. The relative value of

those crops to one another, will vary in every year; one will be good, another indifferent, another very bad. The value of the feed to the cattle fed on the produce of the first and third years, will be very differently estimated by different persons. The proportions of the expense of fallowing and manuring, will be distributed among the several crops, according to the arbitrary rules of adjustment, which the individual making the calculation has formed in his own mind, from his own local and particular observation.

It is an easy task, if farming accounts are regularly kept, to ascertain, at the end of the four years, how much has been gained or lost during the rotation; but the distribution of that loss or gain, is subject to so many variations of opinion, and so many vicissitudes depending on situation, soil, and weather, as to prevent reliance from being placed on any estimate of the real cost of either one of the descriptions of grain.

The same obstacles will present themselves to the attainment of accuracy, where any other rotation of crops is adopted.

If the difficulty is thus great in attaining, or even approximating to certainty in the cost price of any particular description of corn in this country, it may well be deemed much more bold to hazard an opinion on that subject in a foreign country, where many circumstances which can be but imperfectly known to a stranger and temporary visitor, may have a powerful influence.

I received many statements from the different persons with whom I conversed on the subject, as to what they considered to be the actual cost in a number of years, of wheat and other corn. These, as may be supposed, widely varied from each other. Although I was fully convinced that

for several years the loss on the mass of agricultural products throughout the maritime provinces of Prussia, has been very great; and that, instead of leaving anything for rent, that has been much more than absorbed, yet I could place no reliance on the accuracy of any statements which attempted to define the exact limits of the loss on each kind of corn.

In founding a calculation on the answers of President Rothe, though I give to that gentleman's facts the most implicit confidence, yet I should hesitate, if he had stated what was the cost price of wheat and rye, to yield to him the same assent; I have no doubt, however, he is accurate in stating, that the loss on the corn grown in the year 1824, without allowing anything for rent, was 20 per cent. According to the paper in Appendix, No. 11, the price at which the wheat on the estate described was sold, in the year 1824, when the crops were good, was one thaler and a half per scheffel, or three shillings per bushel, by which a loss of 20 per cent was incurred, besides the whole of the rent, according to which the cost price to the farmer would be about 28s. 9d. per quarter on the spot.

Sale price 3s. per bushel, or, per quarter	24	0
Loss, estimated at 20 per cent	4	9
	28	9
Allowance for rent, calculated at one-tenth of the gross proceeds	2	3
Which would make the cost	31	0

If to this be added,

Shipping charge, and merchant's commission or profit	2	9
Freight, primage, and insurance to London	8	0
Lighterage, landing charge, and commission in England	1	3
	13	0

The costs of wheat may be in some degree approximated to, by ascertaining the selling prices for a series of years. If that series be short, it may be affected by various intervening events, such as war, invasion, or deficient harvests; but by being spread over a long series, the effects of adventitious circumstances become lessened. It is reasonable to calculate, that in a long series, the profit on corn cannot be much above that on other branches of industry in the same country. If the profits on raising corn are much above those of other occupations, an increased quantity, to the production of which the augmented capital might contribute, would cause the price to fall; if those profits were much lower, a diminution of supply, to which the loss of capital would contribute, would tend to raise the prices.

Although, from the fluctuation in the productiveness of different years, corn is less subject to the general abstract principles, by which supply and demand, as regards other commodities, are regulated in a short period, yet in a long period, such as thirty or forty years, or longer, it also must be governed by them.

Without going back to the long list of prices for the last hundred and sixty years, for which see Appendix, No. 24, we may adopt that which begins in 1791 and ends in 1825, Appendix, No. 13; for five of those years no prices are given, because the ports were shut. The average of the whole of these years, taking the lowest and highest price of each year, and disregarding the difference of the quantities sold in several years, gives the price at 45s. 11d. per quarter. The largest quantity was sold in the years when the price was highest, being probably the stocks which had accumulated during the years of low prices. The price of those years may

therefore be considered as speculating prices. If the years 1800, 1801, 1805, 1817, and 1818, be struck out, the average price of the thirteen remaining years will be 33s. 6d. If we suppose a profit to be made of ten per cent by the dealers in corn, these thirty years will give, as the cost price to the grower, after paying rent, a price nearly approaching to that which is given before, as calculated on the data furnished by President Rothe.

Without placing much reliance on it, yet some corroboration is received, by the market prices of Berlin, for the last eleven years, where the average price of the best Polish wheat has been 36s. 6d. or about ten per cent higher than the average of Dantzic, for the thirty years to which we have referred. This may be accounted for, partly by the quantity of the wheat, and partly from the additional conveyance, and consequent expenses. The returns from Berlin, taken on St Martin's day, in each year from 1774 to 1824, for which see Appendix, No. 17, give, as the average price for the fifty years, 34s. 6d. As the best of wheat is probably brought to the capital, some allowance must be made for the superior quality, and also something for the profit of the dealers, through whose hands it has passed. This will bring it sufficiently near to the price here assumed, to give probability to the calculation.

Although, since the return of peace, no alleviations of the public contributions have been applied, and no diminution of the other subjects of expenditure which compose the cost of growing corn, has been experienced, yet the contrast between the first and last five years since that event took place, in the prices of corn, is so striking, that it deserves to be noticed. In Dantzic, the average of the five years, from 1816 to 1820 inclusive,

gives for wheat 54*s.* 5*d.* per quarter, and that for the years 1821 to 1825 inclusive, 26*s.* 2*d.* In Berlin, the average for the first five years is 46*s.* 4*d.* and for the second, 26*s.* 7*d.*

The far greater part of that division of ancient Poland, which is now comprehended in the vice-regal kingdom of that name, is a level country, with scarcely an ascent or descent, except where the courses of the rivers have formed channels below the general level of the country. As these rivers, though in summer they appear small streams, are swollen by the rains of autumn, and the melting of the snow on the Carpathian mountains in the spring, they form large channels, extending on both sides to a great distance; and their deposit, in many parts, enriches the land, and it presents, in the summer, the aspect of verdant and luxuriant meadows. In other parts, the periodical swellings of the streams have formed morasses, which, in their present state, are not applicable to any agricultural purposes. The plains which extend from the borders of one river to another, are open fields, and scarcely any perceptible division of the land, and showing scarcely any trees even around the villages. The portion of woodland on these plains is very extensive; but they are in large masses, with great intervals of arable land between them.

The soil is mostly sandy, with occasional mixture of a sandy loam; it is very thin, resting chiefly on a bed of granite, through which the heavy rains gradually percolate. Such a soil is easily ploughed; sometimes two horses, or two oxen, and not unfrequently two cows, perform this and the other operations of husbandry.

This representation of the kingdom of Poland is strictly applicable

to six of the eight waiwoodships, or provinces, into which it is now divided.

To the south of the river Pilica, which comprehends the two provinces of Sandomir and Cracow, the appearance of the land and the face of the country improve; and in proceeding south to the banks of the Vistula, there is to be seen a more undulating district and a more tenacious and fruitful soil. Much of the land is a clayey loam, requiring three or four horses to plough it, yielding, when tolerably managed, crops of excellent wheat and oats; and where the husbandry is so good as to have adopted the practice of sowing clover between the two corn crops, the produce is very abundant.

The southern point of this district, forming now an independent republic, called, from the name of its capital, Cracow, is very fertile. It extends along the Vistula about twenty miles, and contains, in 500 square miles, or 320,000 acres, about 100,000 inhabitants.

Some of the estates of Poland, belonging to the nobility of the highest rank, are of enormous extent; but owing to the system of dividing the land among all the children, unless a special entail secures a majorat to the eldest son, which is in some few instances the case, much of it is possessed in allotments, which we should deem large; but which, on account of their low value, and when compared with those of a few others, are not so. Of these secondary classes of estates five or six thousand acres would be deemed small, and thirty or forty thousand acres large.

There are, besides these, numerous small properties, some of a few acres, which, by frequent subdivisions, have descended to younger branches of noble families. The present owners are commonly poor, but too proud

to follow any profession but that of a soldier, and prefer to labour in the fields with their own hands rather than to engage in trade of any kind. As titles descended to every son, and are continued through all the successors, the nobility have naturally become very numerous; but since the Emperor of Russia has gained the dominion over Poland, the use of titles has been restricted. No one can assume that of baron, unless his clear income from his estates exceed 1000 gulden, or 25*l.*; none that of count, whose rents are less than 3000 gulden, or 75*l.*; and none that of prince, who has less than 5000 gulden, or 125*l.*

The whole of the lands are made alienable, and may now be purchased by persons of any rank, and are actually held by some who are burghers, or peasants; the Jews alone are prohibited from becoming proprietors of the soil, though they have very numerous mortgages upon it. When they foreclose, the lands must consequently be sold; and as these Jews, the monied capitalists, cannot become purchasers, the prices they yield are very trifling.

The most numerous class of cultivators are peasants; they have a limited property in the lands which they occupy, and the cottages in which they live, under the condition of working a stipulated number of days in each week, on their lord's demesne, and paying specified quantities of produce, such as poultry, eggs, yarn, and other things, in conformity with ancient usage.

The extent of these holdings vary, according to the quality of the land, and the quantity of duty work, or of payments in kind, which are to be fulfilled.

On a large property which I examined, the peasants had about forty-eight acres of land each, for which

they were bound to work for two days in every week with two oxen. If their labour was farther required, they were paid threepence per day for two other days, and if beyond that number, sixpence per day; on another property, I found the peasants had about thirty-six acres, for which they worked two days in each week, with two oxen; when called upon for extra labour, they are paid sixpence a-day for themselves and oxen for the next two days, or if they work without their oxen, threepence.

If their labour is demanded the remaining two days in the week, the sum to be paid is made the subject of a special agreement. On one estate, the peasants had but twenty-four acres, and did one day's work themselves, with one horse; the rest of their labour was paid for in money, by agreement made at the time it was required. Another proprietor, on land somewhat exhausted, granted to each of his peasants more than fifty acres of land, for which they worked, with two horses, three days in a week. It would be easy to give instances of more various rates of duty work, and of the quantity of land which is appropriated for its performance. Some are of a luxurious and of a ludicrous kind. I was told that the inhabitants of two whole villages, near a princely domain, hold their lands on condition of employing a certain number of days in each week in cleaning the walks, and keeping in good order the pleasure grounds, which surround the vast castle of their benevolent and hospitable lord.

In general, this peasantry is in a condition of great distress, and involved in debt to their lords. They are no longer slaves, or *adstricti glebæ*. By the constitution promulgated in 1791, they were declared free, and that part of the constitution suffered

no alteration under the dominion of the Russians and Prussians ; was confirmed when the King of Saxony became sovereign ; and was again assured in 1815, when the Emperor of Russia was enthroned as King of Poland.

The practical effects of the privileges, thus granted, have hitherto been very inconsiderable. The peasants can leave their land, but must first acquit the pecuniary demands of their lords. Few are able to do this, as most of them are in arrears. The lords must supply them with their oxen, in case one dies ; their plough and other implements must be furnished to them by him ; and in years of scarcity, they become involved in debt, for the requisite subsistence of themselves and their cattle. This, together with local attachments, and the habit of respect for their feudal superior, has, in general, prevented the peasants from wandering away from the houses of their fathers, and from the protection of their chief. It thus rarely happens that the peasants quit the estates on which they have been born ; and the instances that do occur, are chiefly to be attributed to the embarrassed circumstances into which their lords may fall. A declining property produces a necessitous peasantry ; and such may sometimes be induced to try their fortune under another proprietor.

A gentleman, with whom I formed an acquaintance, had been compelled to take an estate which was mortgaged to him. He found no peasants on it ; the land was neglected, and the buildings dilapidated. As no tenant would take it at any rent, he was under the necessity of farming it. To induce peasants to come to him, he granted them a larger portion of land than was customary on that quality of soil, built them houses, supplied them with oxen and imple-

ments, sowed the corn of the first year, and fed them till it was fit to be converted into food. By these means, though he was enabled to get his labour performed, yet he assured me it was by persons of the least skill, industry, and sobriety.

The want of peasantry is a general subject of complaint, especially among those (who are by far the greater number) whose estates are loaded with mortgages or other encumbrances ; such sometimes lose them, but cannot command the means of inducing new ones to settle on the lands.

Though no longer slaves, the condition of the peasants is but little practically improved by the change that has been made in their condition. When a transfer is made, either by testament or conveyance, the persons of the peasantry are not indeed expressly conveyed, but their services are, and in many instances are the most valuable part of the property.

It is said, that when the freedom of the peasants was first decreed, it was viewed by them with great distrust. They were alarmed with the apprehension, that in age or sickness, or other incapacity, they should be abandoned by their lords, and left to perish in want ; by the form that society has taken in the course of the thirty-four years that have passed since the alteration was enacted, their alarms have been dispelled ; and the same acts of kindness being exercised in most cases as were formerly customary, they can perceive no alteration in their condition, that is either materially more beneficial or injurious to them.

These people live in wooden huts covered with thatch or shingles, consisting of one room with a stove, around which the inhabitants and their cattle crowd together, and where the most disgusting kinds of filthiness

are to be seen. Their common food is, cabbage, potatoes sometimes, but not generally, peas, black bread, and soup, or rather gruel, without the addition of butter or meat. Their chief drink is water, or the cheap whisky of the country, which is the only luxury of the peasants, and is drunk, whenever they can obtain it, in enormous quantities. They use much salt with their vegetable food, and in spite of the heavy tax on that commodity, can never dispense with the want of it at their meals. I was informed, and saw reason to credit the accounts, that when the peasants brought to the market towns their trifling quantities of produce, a part of the money was first used to purchase salt, and the rest spent in whisky, in a state of intoxication that commonly endured till the exhaustion of the purse had restored them to sobriety. In their houses they have little that merits the name of furniture; and their clothing is coarse, ragged, and filthy, even to disgust.

Very little attention has been paid to their education, and they are generally ignorant, superstitious, and fanatical. They observe about twenty holidays in the year, besides the Sundays; and pass much of their time in pilgrimages to some favourite shrine, in counting beads, and similar superstitious occupations.

This representation of the condition and character of the peasantry, though general, cannot be considered so universal as to admit of no exceptions; some rare instances of perseverance in economy, industry, and temperance, are to be found; and unfavourable as their circumstances may be for the creation of such habits, they are here attended by the usual correspondent results. Some few peasants have been enabled to gain three or four allotments, and to employ their sons or hired servants

to work for them; and there are instances of such persons making a still farther progress, and being enabled to purchase estates for themselves. Such cases as these, however, occur so rarely, that though they produce individual comfort and wealth, they have no perceptible influence on the general mass of society, or on the surplus quantity of agricultural productions.

As may be naturally inferred, from the system under which labour is applied to the land, that labour is performed in the most negligent and slovenly manner possible. No manager of a large estate can have his eye constantly on every workman; and when no advantage is gained by care in the work, it will naturally be very imperfectly executed. All the operations of husbandry struck me to be very ill performed: the ploughing is very shallow and irregular; the harrows with wooden tines do not penetrate sufficiently to pull up weeds in fallowing; the roller is almost unknown, and thus the land is filled with weeds of all descriptions. I observed the same want of attention in thrashing; and it appeared to me that a much greater proportion of the grain was left among the straw, than in that which had passed under an English flail. In short, the natural effects of the system of duty work was visible in the whole of the administration of the large estates where it is followed, with the exception of those few proprietors who have intelligent and active managers, and are free from pecuniary embarrassments.

The common course of cropping is the old system of a whole year's fallow, followed by winter corn, and that by summer corn, and then a fallow again. Thus one-third of the land bears nothing. The winter crop, in the northern part of Poland, consists of wheat and rye; the proper-

tion of the latter to the former, is nearly as nine to one, and the wheat enjoys the benefit of what little manure is preserved. Thus the wheat actually cultivated does not occupy more than one-thirtieth part of the arable land. In the southern part of the kingdom, the wheat bears a larger proportion to the rye, amounting, on the more tenacious soils, to a fifth, and even, in some cases, to a fourth part of the rye.

The statements I could collect, and my own observation, led me to conclude the stock of cattle to be very small, in proportion to the extent of land, and to the number of inhabitants. The government of Poland has not collected those statistical facts, which are so regularly registered by the Prussian, and some other of the governments of Germany; where they have been collected, as in the case of the population of the year 1817, I believe but little accuracy is to be discovered. I found, in a conversation with one of the ministers, to whose immediate department it belonged, that no great dependence could be placed on the census of that year.

In the absence of more recent authority, I avail myself of a Prussian document, which shows the numbers of the different kinds of cattle in the provinces of Plock, in Poland, when it was under the dominion of that power. I have no reason to suspect the accuracy of this official statement, or to believe that this province is not equal in live stock to the average of the whole kingdom. I was told there was, in the province of Podolachia, a greater number of black cattle, and in the province of Lublin, a greater number of sheep, than in Plock; but these provinces were represented to me as deficient in other cattle, the former having fewer sheep, the latter fewer cows.

In the year 1803, the returns from

Plock were thus: 45,028 horses and colts; 196,540 oxen, cows, and young cattle; 194,133 sheep and lambs; 95,634 swine.

The extent of this province is nearly one-fourth of that of the three maritime provinces of Prussia; and thinly as those are stocked with cattle, in comparison with England, it will be seen, by the following statement, how much they exceed that of the district in question:—

	Prussian Maritime Provinces.	Polish Province of Plock.
	Acres.	Acres.
Horses and colts . .	1 to 42	1 to 106
Oxen, cows, and calves . .	1 ... 18	1 ... 24
Sheep and lambs . .	1 ... 10	1 ... 24
Swine	1 ... 35	1 ... 52

If it be considered, that since the year in which the facts exhibited in this statement were collected, the country has suffered severely from being the theatre of war, from three changes of sovereigns, and from the low prices of all produce, it will scarcely appear probable that it has so increased in wealth as to have added materially to its stock of cattle, or even to have kept up that stock to the standard which it had reached before those visitations. It appears by the statistical account of the lordship of Pulaway and Konskowlia, in the province of Lublin, which is considered to be one of the best managed estates in Poland, consisting of 119,232 English acres, that the stock of cattle, including those of the proprietor and his subjects or tenants, is somewhat below what the Prussian accounts show of the average of the province of Plock, in the year 1803. It appears to be (see Appendix, No. 18) thus:

1 cow or ox to . . .	26½ acres.
1 sheep or lamb to . .	19
1 horse to	156
1 pig to	146

No country can be much better adapted for the breeding of sheep than the greater part of the kingdom of Poland. Wherever it is attended to with due skill, it is found to be beneficial; but the poverty of the landholders, and their want of knowledge of the advantages to be derived from that kind of live stock, keeps them from devoting their land to their propagation.

A very intelligent physician, a native of Germany, whose acquaintance I had the pleasure to make in Poland, and who devotes the money acquired by his medical practice to the purchase and the cultivation of land, —told me that he purchased, four or five years before, a flock of fine-woolled sheep of the Saxon Electoral breed; that he had already sold in fleeces and lambs as much as had replaced the whole capital expended, and had at present double the number which he had originally purchased. This striking instance of success, in an experiment in rural economy, is known to most of the cultivators; and yet it has been able to produce such few followers, that I was assured there were yet in Poland only two other flocks of unmixed fine-woolled Merino sheep. This gentleman was one of the first that had cultivated green crops on an extensive scale, for feeding sheep; and though the benefit of it was obvious, both in the produce of the wool, and the increase of the quantity and quality of his corn, it has had but little influence hitherto on the conduct of others, and that little is confined to a small spot near the capital.

● Of the sheep in Poland, the best are those in the province of Lublin: but they are very far inferior to the breed of Saxony. The cows are a smallish race, and generally kept in bad condition, both as to food and cleanliness. They are for the most

part stall-fed, but from negligence yield very little butter, and no tolerable cheese.

With the exception of a part of the two southernmost provinces, as before noticed, the soil of Poland is of such a thin nature, that where it is moderately farmed, it can scarcely be made to bear a medium crop of wheat more frequently than once in nine years. I examined a farm in the province of Lublin, the proprietor of which is in easy circumstances, and possesses several other estates. The extent of this farm is about 5500 acres. The live stock consisted of sixty milk cows, which are let to a dairyman at about 19s. per year each; some few young cattle, eight or nine horses, and between five and six hundred sheep. The ploughing is performed by two oxen, for which and for his own labour, two days in each week, the peasant has a house, firing, and about forty acres of land, to which the manure made by his oxen is applied. About 2000 acres is in this way in the occupation of the peasants. The manure, therefore, of the cows, sheep, and horses, is applicable to the lord's portion of somewhat more than 3000 acres, and supplies it with more liberality than is practised on any other land near it. The whole is under the plough; there is neither meadow nor permanent pasture. The rotation of crops is as follows:—The first year, a clean fallow, three or four times ploughed; the second year, potatoes are planted; the third year, wheat is sown, and in the following spring, clover amongst it. The fourth and fifth years, the clover is either made into hay, or used for the stall-fed cows and the horses, or fed on the land by the sheep; the sixth year, peas or buck-wheat are grown; then it is fallowed for a year; and the eighth year, a crop of rye is grown; and the ninth, or last year

of the course, the land is sown with barley, oats, and buck-wheat.

On this, which is considered a pattern farm, on which I have reason to believe the increase is greater than on any other in the district, the seed and produce are as follows:—Potatoes, about twenty bushels to the acre planted, and about two hundred bushels raised; wheat, two bushels sowed, and from sixteen to twenty reaped; rye, two bushels sowed, and from twelve to fifteen reaped; buck-wheat, three bushels sowed, and from ten to fifteen harvested. The barley and oats scarcely yield four times the quantity sowed; manure is applied after the potatoes for the wheat; the latter have the benefit of the fallowing, and the former of the manure. The manager, who was a man of skill, thought that when they had more cattle, and consequently more manure, he should be disposed to try the plan of sowing wheat once in seven, or even in six years, if the future prices of that grain should present sufficient inducement. This farm is one of the few in which all the labour, except that of the oxen and their drivers, is paid for in money, and not in produce. The common plan of thrashing, is to give the thrasher a certain proportion of the corn. This varies with the productive nature of the soil and the season, from the fourteenth to the eighteenth bushel. Here it was paid for at the rate of a florin, a trifle less than sixpence, for the *korzec*, a Polish measure, somewhat more than three bushels and a quarter; the mowing, reaping, and other kinds of labour, were agreed for at proportionably low prices.

Although this estate is well managed, and no rent is paid for it, I was induced to believe the assurance which was given to me, that it had not yielded any revenue to the proprietor, in the last four or five years,

in his joint capacity of owner and farmer. He had, however a distillery, and near it is a village, with some establishments, on a small scale, for making coarse woollen cloths. There is no duty on the whisky sold in country places; and the supply of that commodity in the neighbourhood, which is rather populous, leaves a profit, though not equal to the interest of the capital invested in the land, the farming stock and utensils, and the erection of the distillery.

I have dwelt the longer on the circumstances of this particular farm, not because it may be considered as showing the average increase on the usual scale of farming, but because the accounts of the receipt and expenditure, both in money and produce, are kept with great regularity.—In the generality of farms which are under inferior management, the increase would be found much below the rate which is stated in the farm, whose management I have described. If I were to generalize the whole of Poland, except the southern parts of the province of Sandomir and Cracow, I should not estimate the produce of grain to be more, if so much, as two-thirds of that which appeared to be raised on the estate in question. In thus estimating, I should depend not only on my own observation of the state of growing crops, and of those which were being harvested, but on the opinion of the persons best qualified to judge, by being in the habit of looking at the amount of produce, upon a large scale, and by being furnished with the best means of judging the average of the whole.

With that description of persons, including the chiefs of several departments of the government, the prevailing opinion was, that the average produce of wheat was not more than fourteen bushels; of rye, ten; of bar-

ley, fourteen ; of oats and of buckwheat, from eight to ten to the acre. Although the southern parts of Sandomir and Cracow yielded rather more, yet their corn being celebrated for its excellent quality rather than for its much greater produce, and extending to but a small proportion of the whole even of those provinces, it was not calculated that it would have the effect of raising the average of the whole kingdom, in any sensible degree, above the rate here stated.

Upon this subject, I could have wished to have been enabled to give statistical details, rather than my own estimates, or those of persons better acquainted, than any foreigner can be, with the state of the country. If I had met with any agricultural writings expressly Polish, and had understood the language, I might have gleaned from them some facts to rectify, or to corroborate, the estimate of the actual acreable produce of grain ; but as every manager of a farm, that I met with, understands the German language, and obtained whatever knowledge books could give him, from the writers of that nation, there is little inducement to compose works in Polish, on such subjects ; and the German authors, though very accurate and copious, in their statistical reports of their several districts, can know little, and can have no inducement to learn much of the statistical details of Polish agriculture.

The managers of the farms of the greater nobles, are commonly men of good education, as well as good manners, having been most of them officers in the army : and I found them well acquainted with the agricultural writings of Thaer, Schwartz, and other Germans, and by means of German translations, with those of Arthur Young, Sir Humphrey Davy, and other Englishmen. Being almost

cut off from society, and the sports of the field not being, as with us, an object that engages much attention, they have recourse to books to relieve their solitude in the long nights of their tremendous winters.

Having noticed the two provinces which yielded the best wheat, it may not be useless to observe in addition, that but some small portions of each are highly productive, and those at that extremity of the kingdom which is the farthest removed from the ports in the Baltic, at which alone their corn can be shipped for this country.

I first entered the province of Sandomir from that of Massovia, and went through it by the towns of Kozience and Granica, till I reached the Vistula, and crossed it at Pulaway. In this route there was nothing in the face of the country, or in the appearance of the crops, to distinguish them from those of the other parts I had noticed. On my way from the province of Lublin, I again entered Sandomir, passing the Vistula at Rachow. From that river, for sixty or seventy miles, the fertility of the land was not sensibly greater than the general appearance of the other provinces. After passing Stobnica, the country vastly improved and continued good, through Nowe-Maistow, Kozyce, and Przeclawice, till I entered the province of Cracow, at Iwanowice. It is an undulating district, somewhat hilly : the soil, a good brown loamy clay, rather stiff to plough, requiring three, or even sometimes, four horses to work it. The stubbles of wheat were tolerably thick, and proved that the crops must have been good ; they were, however, far from clean, and the wheat, having been sowed after a fallow, there would have been more appearance of young clover, if the management had been well conducted. The wheat grown here, is that which is known in Lon-

don, by the name of Dantzic white wheat ; it is of the most excellent quality, very white and heavy ; I did not learn that the average growth was much beyond, if it reached, twenty bushels to the acre ; though I heard of individual instances of a greater quantity being yielded in good years. The district is about sixty miles in length, but not broad, extending from the left bank of the river, to various, but none great, extents inland. The province of Cracow, as far as I saw it, is of nearly the same kind ; I was informed that some of the northern divisions of it were poor in their agriculture, but rich in mines of iron, coal, and calamine. The territory of the republic of Cracow is like the province of the same name, in the kingdom. The marks of more freedom allowed to exertion are visible in the extensive fields of flax, and the enclosures with tobacco, maize, and a great variety of garden vegetables ; a part of it is likewise rich in mines of coal and calamine ; and great quantities of zinc, made from the latter, have been beneficially exported to England, since the passing of the late law, by which the duty on it was reduced.

This tract of country, which appeared to me so fertile, and in which I remarked more of the outward signs of comfort, does not, including the territory of the republic, in extent amount to one sixtieth part of the present kingdom of Poland. There is in it, the same suffering from the low prices of produce, and a disposition to invest any capital that can be found, in mining, rather than in cultivating the soil.

The province of Galicia, a part of the ancient kingdom of Poland, but now added to the dominions of the Austrian empire, which stretches along the right bank of the Vistula, is, I believe, nearly as fertile as the

southern parts of the present kingdom of Poland, or the territory of the republic of Cracow. I passed through only that portion which lies between the salt mines of Wieliezka, and the frontiers of Moravia. I found by the accounts I obtained at Thorn, (see Appendix, No. 19) that very little wheat from that rich and extensive province had been conveyed down the Vistula to the Baltic, though the access to the sea is as easy as from the south parts of the kingdom of Poland, or from Cracow ; yet the trade in corn is impeded by transit duties both in Poland and in Prussia. No transit duty is charged in Poland, on the corn of its own growth ; and by a treaty of commerce, concluded in the month of March last, with Prussia, the duty at Thorn is reduced to a rate that is almost nominal. There is no such treaty with Austria ; and the corn from Galicia thus continues loaded with the duty, on entering the Prussian boundaries, from which that of Poland is now exempt.

I believe some of the surplus corn of Galicia finds a vent by land carriage into the Prussian province of Silesia. It must, however, be but in small quantities, forming a part of that stated to be exported from Austria, (see Appendix, No. 20.)

It was difficult in such a country as Poland to attain to any accuracy on the rent of land ; the owners generally occupy themselves their domains, and cultivate them by the hands of their peasants.

The lands of the crown are differently circumstanced ; they comprehend one-third of the whole surface, or about ten million acres ; somewhat more than two millions of these are woods, which are managed by a department of the government. The remainder is chiefly arable land, and is leased to tenants. The labour of the peasants is a part of that which

is leased. The tenants of the crown are exempt, as well as their peasants, from some taxes, to which all other occupiers of land are subject, and in consequence of it the estates are better stocked with peasants. Hence, as I was assured by the chief of the department, the peasants on the crown lands form nearly one-fourth of the whole population of the kingdom. To the farmers of these, this must be a great advantage, which but few, and only the richest and most humane lords, can partake with them.

With this freedom from taxation and ample supply of labourers, the lands are let very low; the nominal rent of eight millions of acres of land is stated in the public accounts to be four millions florins, or about ninety-five thousand pounds sterling, or somewhat less than threepence the English acre. In the average are included many acres literally of no value. I was informed, that the land actually under cultivation might be fairly stated to be worth from eightpence to fourteenpence per acre. It is, however, found that the present rent cannot be afforded, that the tenants are falling into arrears, that the hope of recovering some parts must be abandoned; and in other cases, the rent can only be paid in corn. The woods belonging to the crown, consisting, as before stated, of more than two million acres, and under the administration of a public board, are felled in portions annually, so as to cut them every fifty years. The fiftieth part, which was cut last year, (the price of wood having improved,) produced, as stated to me by the chief of the department, the sum of forty-eight thousand pounds sterling, being at the rate of fivepence halfpenny the acre on the whole of the woods, or twenty-four shillings on the part actually cut.

So little land belonging to indivi-

duals is let, that it is difficult to form an opinion of what is its actual average annual value. That it is much lower than formerly, I have no doubt.

One instance came under my own observation. The proprietor of a large domain had let a farm, consisting of about seven thousand acres, on a lease, for the usual term of six years, at a rent of eight hundred and fifty pounds. That lease had expired just before I visited the place. The tenant had lost a great deal of his property, and the peasants had diminished in number; and a new lease had been taken by the same tenant, for no other could be found, at the rate of one hundred and seventy pounds.

I knew of one farm of about four thousand acres, let on a lease for six years, about four years ago, for one hundred and eighty pounds. The proprietor of it assured me, that though he received his rent regularly, he was convinced the tenant paid the whole of it out of his capital, and was only enabled to maintain his engagements from having other pursuits which were profitable. This estate is not more than twelve miles from Warsaw, and has an excellent road to within one mile of it.

Another instance of an estate recently let on lease was related to me by the gentleman who had engaged to take it. It consists of about two thousand three hundred English acres: two-sevenths of it are water meadow, on the banks of the Vistula, producing good hay; about three hundred acres are woodland, and the rest arable. There is a castle or capital mansion on it, which I believe was the chief motive for taking it. The rent agreed for was about ninety-five pounds a-year. The lessee, who is engaged in other pursuits, told me he should try the experiment of working the land by hired annual labourers, to be paid in money. He pro-

posed to keep a flock of four hundred Merino sheep, and a dairy of fifty milch cows, for the butter of which he flattered himself he should find a vent in a neighbouring manufacturing town.

These two last instances appeared to me to be exceptions to the general rate of value of rented land; and I should rather estimate the average to be much nearer that price at which the lands of the government are let. There is, in fact, scarcely any of that class of capitalists, which is familiar to us in England by the term farmer. The state of society is totally different.

Among the real Poles, there is no regular gradation of ranks between the noble proprietor and the wretched peasantry. There may be, and visibly are, differences in the condition of the peasantry, depending on the personal character of their lords, and upon the more or less embarrassed state of the property on which they may be settled; there is also a difference between the landed proprietors, owing to the different degrees of activity, economy, and attention, that they exercise: but there is not a middle class of Poles. The Polish gentry are too proud to follow any course but the military career; and the government, by its large standing army, encourages the feeling, though the pay is scarcely sufficient to supply the officers with their expensive uniforms. The church has too few prizes, among many thousand blanks, to induce any but the lower classes to enter on that profession. The offices of government can employ but few, and those are ill paid, and said to depend on small peculations, rather than on their salaries. Whatever difficulties may present themselves to the placing out young men of good family, none have had recourse to commerce; and if they had, such would be treated by others as

having lost their caste, and descended to a lower rank of society. The manufacturers and the artisans in Poland are almost all of the German nation. If a joiner, painter, mason, tailor, shoemaker, or a person of other similar occupations, including too the medical profession, is wanted, he will commonly be found only among the Germans. The merchants, bankers, and traders, are nearly as exclusively of the Jewish race; and that, too, of all classes, from the importer of wines and colonial produce, to the dealers in rags and old clothes; from the moneyed man, who trafficks in foreign loans and foreign exchanges, down to the lender of small sums, which the poor can obtain by pledging their miserable furniture or implements.

Examples have been recently set by some individuals of the first families and wealth, of establishing manufactories, by forming colonies, with a view of raising a race of consumers on their domains, among whom a vent may be created for the productions of the soil; but they have, in almost every instance, employed foreigners to conduct their concerns, and to perform all the work above the lowest kinds of drudgery. The Germans look too earnestly forward to a return to their own country, with the money they acquire, to invest it in cultivation; and the Jews are not disposed to engage in agricultural, or in any pursuits or occupations in which their shrewdness in making bargains would be of less avail than the practice of hard labour and the most rigid economy.

When estates are sold, the growing timber, houses, and barns, are not the subjects of a separate valuation, but are included in one sum in the purchase. The buildings on estates are of necessity more numerous and more extensive than are required in this country. From the indolent

manner in which all labour is performed, a greater number of cottages are indispensable for the workmen. The corn is seldom or never formed in stacks in the open air, but is housed in barns, and the same is the case with the hay. The snow is so deep in the winter, that there is no food for cattle to be found in the fields; and such is the severity of the cold, that it is indispensable to build houses large enough to contain the whole herds of cattle, and the whole flocks of sheep. Besides the severity of the climate, the number of wolves is so great, and, in spite of all excitement by the government to destroy them, is so fast increasing, that no cattle can be left in the fields in the winter. These animals range the country in bodies of from four to fourteen; and when pressed by hunger, will attack any of the domesticated animals: and, indeed, no winter passes without several human beings, particularly children, falling a sacrifice to their voracity. Instances, it is said, are not uncommon of wolves undermining the foundation of sheep-houses to get at their prey.

From these circumstances, the relative expense of building on estates, compared to the value of the mere land, in spite of the low price of timber, of which those buildings are chiefly constructed, is greater than with us.

An estimate was made by a person eminently skilled in the value of land, who formed it upon actual sales made in the last four years. He divided it into three classes, according to their fertility. The lowest land in a state of cultivation, with good buildings and a competent number of peasants, he stated to be worth one thousand florins the huff. Valuing the florins at sixpence, though worth a fraction less, and taking the huff of thirty Magdeburg morgens, as equal to twenty-

two English acres, the estimate would be a fraction less than twenty-two shillings sterling the English acre. The other kinds of arable land of superior quality vary. The great mass is of the second class, or worth about thirty shillings; but some is estimated at five thousand florins the huff, or five pounds ten shillings; but little, however, is in this class, and that little is in the vicinity of the cities, on the banks of the great rivers, or in some favoured spots in the southern provinces. This estimate was rather founded on the state of affairs three or four years ago, than on their present condition; for I was told, that such a number of estates had lately been offered for sale, that no price could be obtained for the greater part. All the inquiries I was enabled to make, in various parts of the country, led me to the belief, that the estimation here stated, was, in the main, as correct as could be expected to be framed.

The Jews are almost exclusively the dealers in money. They are precluded from becoming landed proprietors, and their exclusion from the market tends to depress the prices in a very great degree. Though some of the richer individuals of that people pass through the ceremony of baptism, especially when they have mortgages on large estates, and mean to foreclose, the whole number of those who thus become qualified to purchase, bears but a small proportion to that of the properties that are offered for sale. I was assured from so many, and such various quarters, that I have no reason to doubt of the report, that almost every estate is deeply involved in debt. The fact is so notorious, that few proprietors feel any delicacy in acknowledging themselves to be partakers of the common lot of their neighbours. More than one, without any reserve, spoke to me

on the sum annually required to pay interest on the mortgages, with as much coolness as an English farmer would speak of his rent, tithes, and taxes.

Among the mortgagees, the King of Prussia and some of his monied subjects, are by far the greatest, in that part of Poland which was included in his dominions, till Poland was erected into a grand duchy by Bonaparte, under the government of the King of Saxony. It had long been the practice of the court of Berlin to assist agriculture, by loans to the proprietors of estates. This practice began under Frederick the Great, and was continued to the disastrous period that followed the battle of Jena. This assistance was extensively afforded to the newly acquired subjects in the part of Poland, which, in the division of that unfortunate country, fell to the share of Prussia. Though the King of Prussia has lost the government, his claims, and those of his subjects, on the individuals indebted to them, have been recognised; and though in many instances the interest has gone on increasing, the claims have not been rigidly enforced. It was rumoured in Warsaw, but not on any authority, that the Emperor Alexander, in his character of King of Poland, was negotiating a treaty with the court of Berlin, which had for its object the relief of the Poles, by purchasing the claims of the Prussians, and assuming the debts to himself.

The amount of the claims of Prussia was stated to me to be two millions of Prussian dollars, or three hundred thousand pounds sterling, secured on various estates extending over near fifteen hundred thousand acres.

A more numerous class of mortgagees comprises the corporations of cities and towns, the trustees of hos-

pitals, schools, colleges, monasteries, convents, and charitable institutions; whatever capitals these may possess is lent on land, and the difficulty of obtaining the interest as it accrues, and in some instances of getting any, causes those establishments to languish, and decrease in their capacity to relieve distress.

Family settlements are mostly made on the security of land; for a long period there was no other means of making a provision for the young and the helpless; and in the flourishing periods of agriculture, the interest was paid with punctuality; of late, however, the widows and orphans, whose incomes were deemed free from risk, have become victims to the general depression of the value of the produce of the soil.

The Jews, with all their characteristic shrewdness and sagacity, have become, in many instances, from mere necessity, mortgagees. When the debts of proprietors accumulated, and the price of produce fell, the monied men were often induced to secure themselves, as well as they could, by accepting of mortgages, where no payment could be obtained.

The representation here given is abundantly confirmed by the proceedings adopted in the Diet when assembled in May last. The two houses, consisting almost exclusively of landed proprietors, settled a plan to administer relief, which received the emperor's sanction.

A national bank is to be established, in which landowners who are in debt, whether on mortgage or on simple contracts, may deposit a schedule of their estates, and a valuation of them: this valuation is to be made by themselves, and it is calculated it will not be made too high, because, as the present land tax is collected on the income, and future imposts are to be levied according to this va-

valuation, few will be induced to give in more than the true value. On the valuation an annual interest is to be paid to the bank, at the rate of six per cent for twenty-eight years. This is to be considered as interest at the rate of four per cent; and two per cent is to form the means of discharging, by compound interest, the principal in twenty-eight years. The bank, on receiving the documents, is to deliver to the proprietors its debentures or certificates; which, twenty per cent being deducted from them, are made a legal tender for the payment of all debts; and on which four cent interest is to be paid by the bank. When the instalment of the first year is paid, the two per cent is to be divided among all the holders of the bank debentures, by a lottery. The drawers of the fortunate numbers will then be paid in full. The others will receive their interest, at the rate of four per cent, till their numbers are drawn prizes, some of which must, of course, wait till the expiration of the twenty-eighth year; at which period, upon this plan, if it should work well, all the debts will be liquidated.

I have only noticed this project as a corroboration of the accounts I collected of the general state of embarrassment in which the landowners in Poland are involved. It may, however, be remarked, that the assumption of the proprietors being able in their united capacity of landlord and tenant, to live on their estates, and have a surplus of six per cent on their value, is quite gratuitous, and founded on a rate of prices for produce, which of late years has not been nearly realized. It leaves, too, an opening to fraud in the power of desperate proprietors, who may neglect the amount of future imposts, for the sake of temporary relief. In fixing the rate of interest so low as four per

cent, this project sacrifices the interests of the creditors to those of the debtors; for money is worth much higher interest on the best of all securities.

The bankers of Warsaw discount their own acceptances, at the rate of half per cent per month. There are but few bills, it is true, drawn on them; but when accepted, they become to the acceptors a secure mode of making interest of their capital. The number of bills drawn in Warsaw is few, and the amount small; but the rate of interest on them may be considered as the best criterion of the actual worth of the use of money, when no risk is incurred. The bankers are said to find the most advantageous employment for their capitals in speculations in Russian and Austrian funds.

The interest of money in Poland, as elsewhere, varies much, according to the necessity of the borrower, and the greediness or suspicions of the lender, as well as the nature of the security that is offered. The Jews lend small sums frequently at two per cent per month; any sum may be easily lent at ten per cent per annum on the security of jewels, plate, and other valuables; but this lending is viewed with distrust by monied men. When the interest becomes due, if it is not paid, recourse must be had to the courts of law; and a judgment must be obtained before the articles pledged can be sold. The suit may be protracted for several years, whilst the high interest is accumulating; and, at the period of decision, the sum originally lent, with the interest upon it, may amount to more than the value of the pledge.

In Poland I was forcibly impressed, by remarking how much the actual use of money is dispensed with in poor countries, and how much of the traffic can be carried on by bar-

ter, without its intervention. It is in this kind of traffic that the lower class of the Jews are enabled to make themselves the almost indispensable agents in every transaction of buying and selling. The numbers of the country people that attend at fairs and markets, with minute quantities of commodities, excite much surprise in one who remarks the thinness of the surrounding population, whilst the number of Jews, apparently mere spectators, sauntering through such collections of peasants, seems no less extraordinary.

No paper, or any other substitute for metallic money, circulates in the country; and the value in specie of every commodity that is produced at home, is very low, and the productions of foreign countries, exclusive of the taxes that are imposed, very high.

Cows are of various races, and, I think, differ more in their value than in any country I have ever visited. The common breed of the country are worth about 27s. or 28s. per head. The Ukarine, or the best from Podolia, are estimated much higher, averaging 3*l.*; and some few, very good, are worth 4*l.* 10s. Flocks of sheep vary too, but not so much as cows; the lowest of the native breed are worth, per head, 3s., and the best about 5s. 6d. or 6s. Merinos are very rare at present, and worth from 8s. to 9s. per head.

The corn-spirit, or whisky, is sold in the country at 10d. per gallon; but paying a high duty, or being a subject of monopoly, farmed by the government to distillers on the entrance of the cities and towns, is retailed in them from 3s. to 3s. 6d. per gallon. Horses, except those of foreign races, are as low in proportion as cows and sheep. The price of meadow hay in the capital was from 14s. to 15s. per ton; so little is sold

in the country, that it would have been difficult to state what is the value before the expense of conveyance is paid.

There are few burdens laid exclusively on the land, except the tenth Groschen tax. That was originally a war tax, and is so still denominated, though continued after ten years of a peace; and there exists no present probability of its being speedily withdrawn. A small sum is levied in each district for the repairs of roads, bridges, and other local purposes; but that and the land-tax scarcely exceeds 25 per cent on the presumed annual value of the land.

The tithes are very moderate, and chiefly compounded for at fixed rates, which can never be altered without the consent of the owner. Under one of their monarchs, the clergy were called upon to pay contributions to the state, at a rate which they gave as the annual value of their livings; and upon these valuations, compositions have been settled. As the patron, with the consent of the archbishop, (a consent seldom withheld,) can remove an incumbent, they are necessarily too dependent to enter into contests about tithes. The secular parochial clergy are commonly men of slight education, usually the sons of peasants, to whom the somewhat elevated character of priest, with its small emoluments and freedom from hard labour, forms a sufficient inducement to enter on the ecclesiastical profession. I was told, but cannot vouch for its accuracy, or for the extent to which it may be carried, that since the Jews have been prohibited from keeping public-houses, the parochial priests have become in the villages the chief retailers of whisky, and thereby increase their otherwise scanty incomes.

The other taxes fall no more on the landed interest than on other classes

of the community. They are chiefly on consumption ; that on beer forms a part, and is collected by a monopoly let to farm by the government, to brewers. All foreign commodities, such as sugar, coffee, and wine, have heavy duties imposed. These are collected from all the consumers of them ; and few of the agriculturists can at present afford to purchase such luxuries, but must be content with honey, dried chicory roots, and whiskey, as substitutes for them.

The whole revenue, according to the statements of official men, does not exceed two millions sterling. As one-fourth of the population, the tenants and peasants of the crown, are exempted from paying the tenth *Groschen* tax, the heaviest of all the imposts, the sum extracted from the rest of the subjects amounts to 15s. per head annually. The whole population of the present kingdom is between 3,800,000 and 4,000,000, having increased since its establishment 250,000.

The revenues do not pay the expenses of the government, but the deficiency is made up by remittances from St Petersburg, which usually amount to 4,000,000 silver roubles, or nearly L.500,000 sterling. The forced military service, and quartering of troops, are burdens on the land, which are difficult to reduce to any money estimation. The young men of good families are expected to become cadets in a service, whose pay will scarcely clothe them ; and the strongest of the labourers are selected as privates, without the formality of asking their consent, or drawing lots. When in quarters, the officers occupy the best apartments in the houses of the proprietors, whilst the privates are lodged in the peasants' cottages. At present the military are under good discipline ; but still they

have means of extorting, from those on whom they are quartered, something beyond the use of bare walls.

Of late years the attention of the government, of those private nobles who have adequate means, and of the richer Jews, has been drawn to manufacturing. The very low rate of all mere manual labour, the extensive market of the vast Russian dominions being opened to the Poles, and the cheapness of raw products, have contributed to the establishment of numerous but not large undertakings, which, as far as I could form a judgment, promised to be beneficial to the individuals concerned in them.

I was assured by two noblemen at the head of different departments of the executive government, that, within the last six years, more than two hundred and fifty thousand foreigners, chiefly Germans, and almost all manufacturers, had emigrated from their own country and established themselves in Poland. They have some privileges in regard to taxation. Those of them who are Protestants are supplied with churches and ministers, at the expense of the government, though on a low scale ; and they are, for a prescribed period, free from the military conscription.

The cloth made from the native wool is coarse, and may not be very neatly fabricated ; but as it reaches the markets of Russia without any impost, and enters into competition there with goods manufactured in England, the Netherlands, and Germany, which are subject to high duties and the expenses of conveyance, —it can be sold at correspondent low prices. These manufacturing establishments are, for the most part, on a small scale, but some of them of a higher class, for making finer cloths, have imported machinery of various kinds from England, or have copied

it from what has been imported. In the application of that machinery they have not been very successful; but as long as it continues to be the maxim, that it is better to wear dear cloth and bad cloth made at home, than to buy good cloth and cheap cloth from foreign countries, and whilst the maxim is practically applied, by imposing heavy duties on the cloth of all other countries, there will be a considerable demand for what is made.

I did not hear of any other goods than woollen cloths made for distant markets; but of late establishments have been formed for making linens, cottons, iron wares, and paper, solely for domestic consumption, and chiefly by the aid of capitals to which the government has contributed.

The project, which was the chief favourite when I was in Poland, was the working of mines. It had been brought under the immediate attention of the government, by an offer from a joint stock company formed in England, to take the mines on lease for a term of years. Though the proposal was not accepted, it produced an excitement both on the ministers and on private individuals, and became the general topic of discussion. The mines have hitherto been worked but to a small extent, barely sufficient iron being extracted to supply the scanty domestic demand. The iron is said to be of an excellent quality, the ore capable of being raised with but little labour, and the mines situated in the districts where both coals and wood are abundant.

Besides the mines of iron and coal, there are others, hitherto slightly worked, of calamine and copper. The attention awakened by the English proposal has not yet had time to produce any actual effects on the part of the government. From the state of

the finances nothing can be undertaken till the consent of the cabinet at St Petersburg is obtained. In the meantime several Poles have arrived in this country on a mission from the ministers at Warsaw, to examine the machinery used for diminishing labour in our mines, and to acquire the knowledge of the most improved methods practised here for separating the metals from the ore. One individual, too, who has mines of calamine and coals, with whom I became acquainted at Cracow, has resolved to visit the mining districts of England early in the next spring, to learn the most economical modes of conducting his operations. The low prices of food and of labour must facilitate the business of mining extensively contemplated, if capital can be found to pay for that labour, and to wait for the returns till the produce of the mines can be re-converted into money.

My efforts to make computations of the cost price of wheat, were as little satisfactory to myself in Poland as in Prussia. The same difficulties presented themselves, and the same doubts attach to every attempt at accuracy. As may be seen by the estate at Pulaway, in the province of Lublin, the book-keeping on the large estates is well conducted, but not in such a manner as to distinguish the cost of one kind of corn from that of another, or even to distinguish the cost of all the corn from that of the general mass of productions. Any calculation in Poland, as in other countries, can be but an approximation to accuracy, and must be received with hesitation, however high may be the authority, or however abundant the means of information, of the persons making it. In a conversation with Count Mostoski, the enlightened minister of finance, whilst

viewing his farm near Warsaw, he stated, as the result of his calculations, that the cost price in that neighbourhood was double as much as it was selling for at that time, which was indeed at considerably less than half of the average price it had borne in past periods for a series of years; that during those periods, the benefit on its cultivation had been somewhat less than the profit on the other branches of industry; or that, in the double capacity of landlord and farmer, the annual gain to the cultivator had not been equal to that derived from the same amount of capital employed in any other way.

On referring to the prices of Warsaw, (see Appendix, No. 21 and 22,) it will be seen, that for a period of twenty-four years, from June 1796 to June 1820, the average of the period was 33s. per quarter; and that in the ten years from 1815 to 1824, it was 31s. The price, at the time of my visit to this gentleman, was 14s. 9d. The tables will show that the fluctuations in the price of wheat during the longest period, have had much narrower limits than have been experienced in the other markets near the sea-shore.

It is highly improbable, that if the cost price of wheat had not been tolerably near to the selling price, efforts would not have been strenuously directed to augment the growth of it, and that the quantity raised would not have been regularly increasing; but this is so far from having been the case, that only so long as the price was 30s. or upwards, was the production kept up to the regular standard; and that when it fell but a few shillings below that price, the quantity sent to market diminished, and remarkably so, since the declension has gone on increasing till it has reached the present very ruinous limits.

The view taken by Count Mostoski was confirmed also by Prince Lubet-ski, another of the ministers, who is a cultivator of his own estates, and has officially paid attention to a subject, which has become of the highest importance, to every public officer, and every landed proprietor.

It is worthy of remark, that the present burdens on the land are quite as great as existed during any period of the twenty-four years whose prices are quoted; and that the heaviest of these burdens, the tenth Groschen tax, was not collected in the earlier years of the series. It was originally a war tax, but (as before stated) has been continued through the ten years that have passed since the peace was concluded. The expenses of cultivation have been undoubtedly somewhat reduced with the reduction of the selling prices of the produce; thus the cost of seed, and of the food of working cattle, if valued in money, would appear to be less, but they can scarcely affect the cultivator, who raises them, and consumes them, as he only can derive a profit or incur a loss according to the high or low price of that surplus quantity which he sells at market.

I am disposed, under all circumstances of the case, to pay much attention to the estimations I have related, which were also corroborated by the opinions of most of the cultivators with whom I conversed. With as much confidence as can be felt on a subject which no investigation could have made very clear, I should suppose the cost of wheat in the province of Massovia, to have been nearly between twenty-seven and twenty-nine shillings the quarter, for the last thirty years. Assuming that the cost price of wheat was at the medium, between the points to which in its fluctuations it had approached, we may calculate the cost in England, thus:—

	s.	d.
Cost of the quarter of wheat at Warsaw	28	0
Conveyance to the boats, and charges for loading and stowing, and securing it by mats	0	6
Freight to Dantzic	5	0
Loss on the passage by pilfering, and by rain causing it to grow	3	0
Expenses at Dantzic, in turning, drying, screening, and warehousing, and loss of measure	2	0
Profit or commission, as the case may be, to the merchant at Dantzic . .	1	6
Freight, primage, insurance, and shipping charges, at Dantzic and in London	8	0
	48	0

In ascending the Vistula, beyond Warsaw, as the quality of the grain improves, the expenses on the conveyance of it to the mouths of that river increase also.

I could have wished at Cracow to have obtained the prices for a longer series of years than are to be found in the Appendix, No. 23. Before the times with which that account begins, that part of Poland had used as the medium of exchange the depreciated paper money of Austria; and I had no scale by which to measure the variations, at different periods, between that currency and the silver money, which has been since the sole medium for the exchange of commodities. An account, therefore, for an earlier series of years, would have produced only perplexity and uncertainty. The verbal information I obtained was, in general terms, that there had been no fluctuations in the price of corn, before the return of peace, nearly approaching to those which have been experienced since that event. I was told by one merchant, that the price for many years of the war, had generally been between 24s. and 26s. per quarter, if the paper money had been valued according to the proportion which it bore to silver money, at the several periods of its depreciation.

The account obtained at Cracow (see Appendix, No. 23,) shows, that for ten years and two half-years, the average price of wheat was 25s. 1d. though between the first and last part of that period, the difference is enormous; the first part showing an average of 33s. and the last of only 17s. 5d. If the mean of those two parts be taken, it will show 25s. which nearly corresponds with the information of the merchant before referred to.

If, in the absence of better data, it be assumed, that the selling price of wheat near Cracow, has been for a series of years at 25s. and that the grower's profit has been ten per cent; and the cost price thus taken, at 22s. 6d. the rate at which it would reach this country, may be thus estimated:—

	s.	d.
Cost of wheat at Cracow	22	6
Conveyance to boats, loading, &c. . .	0	6
Freight to Dantzic	7	6
Loss by pilfering, and damage from wet	3	6
Expenses at Dantzic, as in the former estimate	2	0
Profit or commission, as before . . .	1	6
Freight, &c. to London	8	0
	45	6

Some allowance should be made for risk beyond insurance, as corn is covered by the underwriters only in the stranding of the ship, and in the loss which may be to be paid when there is a general average. In both the statements of the expenses of conveyance, the rate of freight on the river Vistula to Dantzic, as well as that by sea from Dantzic to London, is stated at the present price, when there are scarcely any operations of that kind carrying on. During the demand of 1802, 1803, and 1804, and in 1817, I have been told the freight from beyond Warsaw was 10s. per quarter, and that from Dantzic to London was, inclu-

ding primage and insurance, from 11s. 6d. to 12s.

If, from any circumstances, a demand should be created for as much wheat as is consumed in England in six days, it would raise the price of freightage on the river, probably thirty or forty per cent, and half of that proportion in the sea freight from Dantzic to this country. If that demand should extend to twelve days' supply, it would exhaust the whole stock of wheat, fit for our market, and cause it to advance in a much greater degree than the shipping of such a limited quantity in any former period has witnessed.

In stating the several expenses incurred in the conveyance of wheat from

Warsaw to Dantzic at 10s. 6d. per quarter, and from Cracow to Dantzic to 13s. 6d. per quarter, it seems that those sums fall very far short of the difference in price, which is exhibited by comparing the accounts collected at those several places. The merchants at Dantzic, too, appear not to be satisfied with the small sum here presumed, of 1s. 6d. per quarter, for commission and profits. Whether from the higher expenses of conveyance, or the larger commissions, or profits of the merchants, the excess of the prices, beyond the cost of conveyance here stated, is very striking, especially in those years when the demand was the greatest.

Comparative View of the Prices of Wheat, in the several Years enumerated, in Cracow, Warsaw, and Dantzic :

Years.	Price at Cracow.	Price at Warsaw.	Price at Dantzic.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Average of 1796, 1797, 1798, and 1799 together, .	...	24 10	41 9
Average of 1803, 1804, 1805, and 1806 together, .	...	38 4	57 3
Average of 1815, 1816, 1817, and 1818 together, .	35 8	42 4	60 4
Average of 1821, 1822, 1823, and 1824 together, .	18 2	21 2	26 10

It will be seen by this contrast, that in the years from 1796 to 1799, when the exports by sea from Dantzic and Elbing were 1,493,480 quarters, the expenses of conveyance, from Warsaw to the port of shipment, with the profit or commission of the merchants, was 16s. 11d. In the years from 1803 to 1806, when the exports were 1,660,352 quarters, the conveyance and profit of the merchants was 18s. 11d. per quarter.

Since the great decline of prices, which began in 1819, it appears that the average prices at Dantzic, are so near to those at Cracow and Warsaw, that the rate of freight which has been actually paid, is greater than the dif-

ferences between them. In the four years from 1821 to 1824, when the whole quantity shipped from Dantzic and Elbing, has been no more than 299,000 quarters, the difference in price between Cracow and Dantzic has been only 8s. 8d. and between Warsaw Dantzic, only 4s. 8d.

According to several representations which I received, and which cannot be materially erroneous, the quantity of wheat raised in the interior of Poland, has been gradually lessening, but with much more rapidity since 1819, than before that period. During the years 1821, 1822, and 1823, very little wheat passed down the Vistula, as appears by the accounts obtained at Thorn. By

the official accounts, the whole in the three years was only 83,606 quarters; the growers being then induced to withhold from shipping, as long as their necessities would allow. In the year 1824, the pressing demands of creditors and mortgagees forced the holders to sell, and in consequence of it, there was sent down in that year, 93,968 quarters. The pressure of distress still continuing, and the harvest 1824 being very good, there was forwarded in 1825, by the commencement of the harvest of that year, 176,215 quarters, or as much as in the four years which had preceded it.

These two last years' exports had completely drained Poland, and hence, when I was there, before any of the new wheat had appeared at market, the price, for what little was wanted, had rather advanced. I was informed by more than one merchant, that if 10,000 quarters had been required, there was so little left in the country, that it could be collected with difficulty; and that the knowledge of such demand would cause the price to be doubled. In the meantime the stocks at Dantzic and Elbing had been accumulating, in spite of the comparatively small quantities which had been brought down the Vistula.

At the end of 1818, there only remained in store in those cities 92,279 quarters, (see Appendix, No. 13). In the following seven years, up to August 1825, the quantities which paid duties at Thorn, were

<i>Ports.</i>	<i>Quarters.</i>
From Russia,	366,648
Austria,	17,343
Poland,	621,119
	<hr/>
During the same seven years, the	1,005,110
exports from the two ports, were	824,622
	<hr/>
Leaving,.....	180,488
To this is added the stock at the	
end of 1818, as above.	92,279
	<hr/>
	272,767

It appears, however, that the stocks really in store in the two places in August last, amounted to about 350,000 quarters, and therefore there must have been exported, or be in store, about 80,000 quarters of wheat, of the growth of Prussia, in the seven years under consideration.

Poland, and probably the Russian provinces which once were parts of Poland, though drained of their whole stock of wheat, have not, in seven years, caused an accumulation at the exporting cities, of more than about one-tenth of what was shipped from them in the seven years, from 1800 to 1806. Those stocks are, however, higher than appears to have been left on hand at the end of the former years, and hence it may have arisen, that the prices have been reduced far below what it has cost the holders, though they have bought from the growers at rates to discourage the farther cultivation of wheat.

The abandonment of a losing business is most likely to begin at the fountain head, and the effect of that abandonment will be first experienced by a rise of price at the spot where the depreciated commodity is produced. This seems to be the case in Poland, and this may naturally account for the prices of corn at Cracow and Warsaw being higher with the addition of freight and the other charges, than at Dantzic and Elbing.

It has been frequently remarked, that the exportation of corn from any country, if long continued, must tend to exhaust the soil, unless some articles, capable of becoming converted into manure, are introduced to compensate for the injury. Many parts of the north of Africa, and of Asia Minor, which formerly supplied large quantities of corn to Europe, have since become deserts. Perhaps one of the chief causes of the progress we have made in agriculture, and of the superior productiveness of our fields.

has arisen from our exporting but few, and importing many of those articles, which are capable, when decomposed, of becoming manure, and being applied to renovate the soil, as much, or more, as it is exhausted by cropping.

From Poland, for nearly two centuries, according to the document in Appendix, No. 24, the exports of corn have been very large, whilst, on the other hand, nothing has been imported, deserving of notice, which could be converted into nutriment to the soil.

The system of rotation, by which two crops of corn are raised in succession, and nothing is administered to refresh the land but fallow, would exhaust the best soil with which we are acquainted.

In every part of my journey through Poland, the impression communicated, in looking at the fields, whether with growing crops, in stubble, or under the operations of the plough, was, that they were approaching to a state of exhaustion from excessive cropping.

This view, which the rotation of crops and the face of the country suggest, is confirmed by statistical facts, which show that its power of supplying the wants of other countries is greatly diminished. The return of peace, after more than twenty years of extensive warfare, is commonly supposed to have increased the productions of the soil, and to be the cause of the depreciation of prices, which has been the general subject of complaint in every part of Europe. In Poland there has been no sensible increase of numbers, except within the last six years, when Germans, emigrant work people, to the number of 250,000, have established themselves in the different trades to which they have been accustomed in their native country.

On comparing the surplus quantity of bread corn which Poland has exported in a series of the same number

of years, we shall see what has been the falling off.

In the eleven years, (see Appendix, No. 15,) beginning with 1795, and ending with 1805, the exports of wheat from the mouths of the Vistula, were 5,059,163 quarters, or 438,263 a-year, on the average of the period. In the eleven years, beginning in 1815, and ending with 1825, the exports from the same ports were 1,669,027 quarters, or on the average of the period, 151,729 quarters per year. In the latter period indeed, 73,265 barrels of flour were exported: supposing them to be all wheaten flour, it will increase the quantity 39,132 quarters, reckoning that two barrels are the produce of one quarter of wheat. In the first of these two series of years, the rye shipped at the same ports was 1,680,096 quarters; and that in the last series only 456,192 quarters.

The periods here contrasted were both seasons of general tranquillity, except that during the first part of them the opposition of Kosciusko and his partisans to the last dismemberment of Poland, caused partial and temporary disturbances; but they do not appear to have affected the quantity of its agricultural products.

It is true, that in the first series, there were in England two or three deficient harvests, and in the last series but one; the effect of that one was to raise prices so high as to induce the export of the whole that could be got away. Had there been more grown, it would have been eagerly exported; and we find at the end of the year 1818, the stock, both at Dantzic and Elbing, was only 96,900 quarters. Though we imported in the year 1818 from all parts of the world a greater quantity of wheat than in any former year, yet much less of that was shipped from the ports by which the corn conveyed down the Vistula is exported. The

three years of our greatest importation, as appears by accounts laid before the House of Commons, have been 1802, 1810, and 1818; in the first of those, the exports from Dantzic and Elbing were 680,494 quarters. In the year 1810, (see Appendix, No. 15,) the French were in possession of the country, and the exports, all carried in a contraband way, were 267,277 quarters. In 1818, with high prices at Dantzic, viz. 6*s.* 11*d.* the ports of England being open, the exports were 335,769 quarters.

If we calculate that the consumption of wheat in Great Britain is one quarter for each person for food, and about a seventh part more for seed and minor purposes, it will appear that in the first series we have been comparing, the quantity of wheat exported from Dantzic and Elbing would, with the then amount of our population, 11,000,000, be equal to twelve days consumption. In fact, however, out of the 5,059,163 quarters of wheat, which Dantzic exported, 1,300,014 were dispatched to other countries. As we have only the gross exports from Elbing, without distinguishing what was sent to Great Britain, from what was sent elsewhere, it may not be incorrect to assume, that one-fourth as from Dantzic was not sent to our markets, and then there will be a further reduction of 299,205 quarters. This will leave the whole quantity really furnished to us in the eleven years, 3,459,944 quarters, or an annual quantity of 314,540 quarters, being equal to about nine days of our consumption.

At the second series our population had advanced as numbered in 1821, the middle year of that series, to 14,000,000. The quantity of wheat sent to us from the Vistula had declined, and during the eleven years had been 1,252,271 quarters, or 113,842 annually. This would be equal to the

whole of our consumption for betwixt two and three days.

In the Appendix, No. 24, is shown the whole export of corn from Dantzic, for the last 166 years. By those tables, it appears that the wheat exported from that city, during that long period, was 19,581,947 quarters, or 117,963 quarters on the annual average of the period. In fact, the whole that Dantzic has exported in 166 years is not equal to the consumption of this kingdom, with its present population, for more than fifteen or sixteen months. The annual exportation would not now amount to two days and three quarters consumption.

It appears by the official account of the duties paid at Thorn, on wheat descending the Vistula, (see Appendix, No. 19,) that a very large proportion comes out of territories now forming an immediate part of Russia, which once were, but no longer are, parts of Poland. I had communications with several proprietors of estates, whose property is partly in one, and partly in the other country, and availed myself of all means within my reach to acquire a knowledge of the actual produce of grain in both.

The provinces from which the best, and most of the wheat, is transmitted, are Volhynia and Podolia, which were seized by Russia, in the division of Poland in 1796, and are now distinct provincial governments, retaining their ancient names and usages.

Volhynia is represented to be a district of extraordinary fecundity. The pastures are said to be luxuriant, the grass growing so high as almost to hide the cattle, and yielding the richest nourishment to them. The corn is said to increase in common years ten-fold, in spite of bad agriculture; and a failure, or very deficient harvest, does not occur two or three times in a century.

On referring, however, to the official harvest returns of the Russian empire, as quoted in the *Erdebeschreibung* of Hassel, a German work of the highest authority, it will be seen that, in this province, the increase of grain in the year 1802 was very little more than four times the quantity sown.

The Russian *tschewert* being reduced into English quarters, reckoning the *tschewert* at two-thirds of the quarter, the following result appears :

	<i>Quarters.</i>	
Sowed...winter corn.....	322,456	
Do. ...summer do.	313,244	
	<hr/>	635,700
Harvested...winter corn.....	1,349,522	
Do.....summer do.	1,277,310	
	<hr/>	2,626,832
Used for seed, } winter corn...	327,804	
for the next } summer do...	316,996	
year..	<hr/>	644,800
There consequently remained, of		
Winter corn.....	1,021,718	
Summer do.	960,314	
	<hr/>	1,982,032
Of which.....	1,431,566	qrs.
were consumed within the pro-		
vince ; and.....	550,466	qrs.

were exported, or remained in the country at the next harvest. Of this surplus, some part must have been barley or oats ; and as the winter corn consists of six times as much rye as wheat, it is not probable that this district, very rich when compared with the other parts of the Russian dominions, could have furnished to commerce fifty thousand quarters of wheat in a year, when the exports from Dantzic were very great, and the prices of the year preceding had

been in England very high. As the communication by water from this province is more easy to the Black than to the Baltic Sea, its surplus corn will more frequently be conveyed to Odessa than to Dantzic.

Podolia, like Volhynia, is represented as highly fertile ; and by the official accounts, extracted from the statistical writer before quoted, appears to present, in the year referred to already, a greater rate of increase in the seed that has been sown, than Volhynia. Being to the south of Volhynia, it is still more easy of access to the Black Sea than that province, and further removed from communication with England through Dantzic. It, however, deserves to be remarked, that the navigation of the Bug and the Vistula is better than that of the Dniester, because the latter river has many shallows and rapids, and some dangerous falls. The passage of the surplus wheat will be hence determined on by the state of the markets at Dantzic and Odessa. The access to both those markets is so difficult, that only when a scarcity in some part of Europe raises the price to an unusual height, is any considerable quantity attempted to be transported.

When the corn is cut, it is left a long time in sheaves in the fields, till it can be thrashed, or rather trodden out with oxen and horses. When the separation from the straw and chaff is effected, the grain is preserved in excavations in the earth, till it is either called forth by high prices, or, which frequently happens, till it is destroyed by corn-worms, or other insects. It appears from the official accounts, that in the year 1802, the following were the results of the cultivation of corn :—

	<i>Quarters.</i>
Sowed...winter corn.....	293,183
Do. ...summer do.....	351,620
	<hr/>
	644,803

	<i>Quarters.</i>
Harvested...winter corn.....	1,640,271
Do. ...summer do.	1,427,575
	<hr/> 3,067,846 <hr/>
Used for seed, } winter corn... 297,254	
for the next } summer do... 358,476	
year	<hr/> 655,730 <hr/>
There consequently remained,	
Summer corn	1,343,017
Winter do.....	1,069,089
	<hr/> 2,412,116 <hr/>
Of which	1,172,211 qrs.

were consumed within the province; and 1,230,905 qrs. were either exported, or remained in the province till after the following harvest. The consumption here appears so much less than in Volhynia, that it can only be accounted for by the fact, that the culture of culinary vegetables, and the produce of the fruit trees, is far more abundant; and that the cattle are very much cheaper. The difference of more than two degrees of latitude may make some difference in the mode of living, as the warmer the climate, the less corn in general is consumed in brewing and distilling.

The only other province in Russia which conveys its corn to market by the Vistula, is Byalystock. It was formerly a part of Poland, and the inhabitants still generally speak the language of that country. The chief corn raised for bread is rye, but a small portion of that grain, as well as of some very indifferent wheat, finds a passage by the river Bug into the Vistula. The best of the land is appropriated to the growth of flax, hemp, and linseed, or to breeding of cattle. The whole surplus of wheat, which must be small, cannot be distinguished in the returns, from that stated generally to come from Russia.

There are two other of the Russian

provinces whose surplus corn finds a vent through the territory of Prussia. The south-west part of Wilna, formerly Lithuania, has the navigable river Niemen for its boundary, by which the corn is conveyed to Memel. Its produce is but small in proportion to its population, and by the official accounts, the increase appears to be less than in the other provinces. In 1802 the sowing and reaping is thus stated:—

	<i>Quarters.</i>
Sowed...winter corn.	530,245
Do. ...summer do.	315,798
	<hr/> 846,043 <hr/>

Harvested...winter corn	1,099,324
Do. summer do.	1,220,466
	<hr/> 2,319,790 <hr/>

By this statement, it appears, that the increase of grain is somewhat less than four to one.

The province of Grodno, which also has access to the sea by the Niemen, appears to be so nearly equal in fertility to that of Wilna, that a return of the sowing and harvesting of the same year gives results differing only by a small fraction.

The terms of distinction, winter corn and summer corn, instead of autumn and spring corn, which we use, are descriptive of the climate. The violent heats and severe colds, succeed each other with so much rapidity, that they scarcely leave any interval for spring or autumn.

The only accounts I was able to procure of the quantities of corn brought by the Niemen, comprehend merely the three years 1816, 1817, and 1818. No others were to be found in the office of the minister for internal affairs at Berlin, and I did not go to Schmalleninken, where the transit duty is collected. The year 1816 was one of moderate production and demand, till after the state of the

harvest was known, when it was too late in the season for the navigation of these northern rivers. The trade of that year may therefore be considered a fair average, and likely to produce annually 10,000 quarters of wheat, and about 40,000 quarters of other corn, chiefly rye. The two following years, when the exportation was excessive, produced but 38,700 quarters of wheat, and 276,000 quarters of other grain.

From some parts of the two provinces of Wilna and Grodno, the communication by the Duna to Riga is easier than by the Niemen to Memel; and it is hence probable that the largest share of their produce in corn finds a market in that direction. It is shown, by the returns from Riga, (see Appendix, No. 8,) that in the last twelve years, the exportation of wheat from that port has only been 256,658 quarters, or on the average of the period, 21,381 quarters annually; that that of rye has been 1,618,000, or on an average, 134,822 per year; and that of both kinds of grain, the exportation in the two years 1817 and 1818 exceeded that of the other ten years.

Although the route by which I returned from Poland was through countries which have no direct influence on the corn trade of England, yet as remotely connected with countries that do affect it, it may not be improper to add a few of the observations and facts which presented themselves as I passed through them.

The Austrian province of Moravia is very fertile, and, with the exception of some districts of the Netherlands, scarcely any part of the continent is so well cultivated. It bears, too, a larger proportion of wheat than other districts in the east of Europe. Of the winter corn, wheat is estimated at one-fourth, and rye at three-fourths; whereas in the adjoining province of Silesia, the land sown

with rye is nearly ten times that sown with wheat. Moravia is defended by the Carpathian mountains from the east winds; and the harvest, the whole way from Teschen to Olmutz, and indeed to Brunn, is nearly six weeks earlier than in Silesia. I certainly heard complaints of the distressed state of agriculture there, but less of it, and I think with less reason, than in any other part.

Wheat, at Olmutz, was selling for 20s. per quarter, whilst on one side at Cracow, it was selling for 14s. and on the other side, at Vienna, for 14s. 7d.

This better state of things arose from the circumstance of Moravian agriculture finding domestic consumers. It is the chief manufacturing province of the Austrian empire. A greater proportion of the population can afford to live on meat and to use wheaten flour; and hence the agriculturists find a market near home for their productions. The demand for animal food, too, being greater, a greater stock of cattle is kept, more of the land is destined to clover and other green crops; and I should judge from their flourishing appearance, that, like England, the growth of corn does not exhaust the land so much, as the stock of cattle, by their manure, renews its prolific qualities. The woollen, linen, and cotton manufactures, are numerous, and, I was told, flourishing; and as all manufactured goods from foreign countries are either excluded or charged with high duties in Austria, the demand of that extensive empire creates a vent for the native goods, though at the expense of the consumers, who, perhaps in most, certainly in many cases, might get better and cheaper goods. After passing through poorer districts, I was much impressed, throughout Moravia, with the striking practical exemplification of the beneficial effects of manufactures on the prosperity of the agriculturists.

In Vienna I had opportunities of hearing much of the condition of the landed proprietors in Hungary. The want of vent for their surplus corn has so depressed the prices of that and other productions of the soil, that they are said to be losing by every article they raise, excepting wool; though, from farming their own lands, they have no rent to pay, yet the greatest difficulty is encountered in collecting the trifling taxes that are levied upon them.

Although so near to Moravia, the Carpathian mountains are too lofty and rugged to admit of conveyance thither. The mouths of the Danube are so infested with marauders, Wallachians, Besarabians, and Turks, that no safe export can be made to the Black Sea. In times of great scarcity in the maritime countries, some wheat may be conveyed to the port of Trieste; but it will be seen by the prices in the Appendix, No. 31, that it is too low at that market to afford a land carriage of four hundred miles. Though Presburgh is the chief market for the wheat of Hungary, yet, being but little more than twenty miles from Vienna, the price there cannot differ very much from that of the capital, for which see Appendix, No. 27. In some of the smaller towns of Austria, on the borders of Bavaria, where little wheat is consumed, I found the price of wheat and rye nearly the same. The harvest of the latter kind of grain was reported to be deficient, and had raised the price, whilst for the former there was little or no demand.

It will be seen by the returns of the prices of corn at Munich, (see Appendix, No. 28.) that the bread corn in Bavaria is not so much depressed as in Austria. This may be attributed to a law prohibiting the introduction of corn from the surrounding countries, from whence, chiefly from Bohemia, it had been

the practice to import it. This prohibition had rested on an order from the king to the officers of the customs at the different frontier stations; but at the last assembly of the States, a formal law was passed, enforcing the former regulations, and enacting penalties on the breaches of it.

Notwithstanding the restrictions, I found, on inquiry at the Board of Agriculture, that the value of land had greatly declined. According to the statements given to me there, within the last eight years, the fall in the selling price of meadow land had been about thirty-five per cent, and that in the price of arable land full sixty per cent.

The complaints of the losses by farming were as heavy here as in the neighbouring countries where the prices are lower, and in which no laws to prohibit the importation are in existence.

In the kingdom of Wirtemberg, wheat is so little an object of attention from the small quantity which is consumed, that I was unable to obtain any other returns of the prices, than the imperfect list in the Appendix, No. 29, wherein, though the price of rye is regularly stated, that of wheat, for many periods, and at several markets, is wholly unnoticed. In the beautiful but narrow valley of the Neckar, the land is well cultivated; but in the other parts of the kingdom, the soil seemed to be poor, and the cultivation in a very backward state.

As I passed through France rather hastily, and spent but a few days in Paris, I had not opportunities of gaining minute information, as to the state of agriculture. I was, however, satisfied, that, in spite of partial advances towards a better rotation of crops, the far greater part of the cultivation it still carried on upon the ancient, and in England long exploded, system of a fallow, followed by two crops of corn.

I was assured, that for several years past, every cultivator of grain has been selling at far less than it has cost him. Some of the best judges of the subject have calculated that wheat, in the four classes of districts formed of the departments for the purposes of regulating the importation and exportation of corn, costs to the grower, on an average, from 20 to 22 francs the hectolitre, or from 6*s.* 4*d.* to 6*s.* 11*d.* the Winchester bushel.

How far this calculation may be correct, it would be presumption in me to assert. The corn laws of France are, however, founded on a supposition of this being the price necessary to secure a profit to the farmer. The kingdom is divided, for the purposes of the corn law, into four districts, each including departments in which the prices of grain are nearly alike. When wheat is below 18 francs the hectolitre, or 5*s.* 7½*d.* the bushel in the cheapest of those districts, 20 francs or 6*s.* 4½*d.* in the next, 22 francs or 7*s.* 0½*d.* in the next, and 24 francs or 7*s.* 8*d.* in the highest, the importation of foreign wheat is prohibited. As the whole of the four districts form the regulating price, the average of wheat throughout the whole kingdom must rise to 6*s.* 8*d.* per bushel, before any foreign wheat can be introduced.

The laws which regulate the corn trade of France were passed in 1819 and 1821, and the price of corn has not, since the end of the year 1818, ever risen so high as to effect the opening of their ports. Since that year the price has been fluctuating, but declining in the following ratio. (See Appendix, No. 30.)

Average of the whole of France :

		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1820	- -	5	3½
1821	- -	4	11
1822	- -	4	3½
1823	- -	4	11
1824	- -	4	6½
1825	- -	4	3½

Your Lordships have been pleased, in my instructions, to direct me "to consider, with reference to the provinces communicating with the Baltic Sea by the Vistula, from the view I take of the country, what increase of cultivation would be likely to take place in consequence of such a stimulus being constantly in action, as would be applied, if an alteration were made in our laws, so as to leave our markets at all times accessible to the corn grown in Poland;" and further, I have been instructed, "that, as it may be necessary to assume some given price in this country, in forming such an estimate, it was thought desirable to proceed upon a supposition of an average price of wheat at home, of 60*s.* to 64*s.* per quarter."

This question involves so many considerations depending not only on the present condition of the country, but on the political regulations to which it may hereafter be subject, that any reasonings applied must be in a great measure hypothetical and speculative; and any conclusions we may arrive at, must be liable to be affected by changes which cannot now be contemplated, or taken into calculation.

The utmost that can be done is to approximate to a result, by a consideration of the principal circumstances on which it will depend, by reference to the fluctuations in past periods, and by an examination into the causes from which those fluctuations have proceeded.

In obedience to this direction, I presume, with the diffidence which must be always felt in anticipating the effects of untried, and consequently doubtful experiments, to state my views on the subject.

The effect of the stimulus here proposed must depend, in a great measure, on the assurance of its duration. The market for wheat which England presents, is the great object

of attention to the cultivators in Poland, and to the merchants at the ports from whence its corn must be exported. Those persons have been accustomed to observe such frequent alterations in our laws relative to the corn trade, that any new enactments would, at first, be thought temporary and mutable, like those of former periods. This uncertainty has been the cause of heavy losses to them, and would therefore have the effect of causing the cultivators to pause before they made any great changes in their rotation of crops, or in the kinds of corn they would sow.

The statements which are given in the part of this report more immediately relating to the kingdom of Poland, will show that the want of capital among the cultivators has proceeded to such an extent, from the losses they have sustained, that they must, in a great degree, be disabled from making any considerable improvement in cultivation, or of raising any very large increase of produce in a short period. The great deficiency of live stock, which indeed may be resolved into a deficiency of capital, would be an impediment in the way of a rapid extension of the growth of wheat. Without manure, wheat cannot be grown beneficially, and without a stock of cattle, in some degree commensurate to the extent of the land, manure cannot be obtained; and though to a certain degree the profit arising from the wool, and not from the meat, enables the landowners to support some few sheep, yet the want of a class of consumers, who can afford to make animal food their subsistence, must operate to prevent any great increase in the stocks of cattle. Such a class is not to be expected there, till a great improvement, or an increase of manufactures, shall have taken place. The greater portion of the population of Poland is too poor to allow of

their using animal food; the want of it is scarcely felt by persons always accustomed to live, with very little variation of diet, on rye bread.

The labouring classes, too, being assured of a supply of the bare necessities of life, are little disposed to any great changes in their mode of work, or any exertion of strength or skill beyond that to which they have been accustomed.

They have been, perhaps, and not without some reason, always represented as indolent, unskilful, filthy, and drunken, and averse to the improvement which their wiser and better superiors have attempted to introduce.

Whilst the present low price of corn continues, and the corresponding low rate of wages, and the markets of Russia are open to the woollen cloths of Poland without duty, the profit of capital employed in that branch of industry must offer to it temptations that agriculture does not present. But if, by any alterations, the cloths of Poland should in the Russian custom-houses be placed on the footing of the cloths of other countries, or if a rise of corn and of wages should take place to such an extent as to make the Polish cloths dearer than those which are charged with duty, the effects might be, to drive the capital from the cloth trade to the business of cultivation. The present want of capital may possibly be supplied by influx from other countries, but this must depend in a great measure on the internal government and political regulations of the country. The increase of manufactures in Poland, and the augmented population which they usually induce, might produce such a number of internal consumers as to leave much less surplus corn to export to other countries. It is true, that wheat would be but little eaten by the manu-

facturers, but the increased demand for rye might make that kind of grain the most profitable to the grower, and he would then devote to the cultivation of it some portions of the land which, under different circumstances, would have been appropriated to the growth of wheat.

The manufactures in Poland, are, however, of too little importance, at present, to make it desirable to hazard any conjectures on what the effects of their increase or diminution would be on the surplus quantity of exportable grain.

A view of the past exportation from the Vistula, at different periods, and under different circumstances, will, perhaps, give some assistance in forming an idea of what may be the result of future changes.

It is worthy of remark, that, in the long period of 166 years, of which the returns are given, (See Appendix, No. 24,) there has been little variation in the actual quantities of corn exported from Dantzic, when taken by periods of 25 years. At the commencement it is seen, that the quantity of rye far exceeded that of wheat; that they gradually approached each other, till the produce of wheat exceeded that of rye, and constantly so up to the present time. The physical circumstances of the country are as they were during that long period. The course of the several streams that convey their supplies of corn into the Vistula, has been without alteration; and the facilities of internal conveyance have been scarcely improved by any new or better roads. There is no ground to suppose that any material, certainly not any observable or recorded increase of population has taken place, except the recent immigration of Germans.

The whole period of 166 years, returns of which, as extracted from the city records of Dantzic, are in the

Appendix, No. 24, when divided into periods of about 25 years, exhibits the following annual exportation of wheat and rye from that port.

Years.	Wheat.	Rye.	Total.
	Quarters.	Quarters.	Quarters.
1651 to 1675	81,775	225,312	307,087
1676 to 1700	124,897	227,482	352,379
1701 to 1725	59,795	170,100	229,895
1726 to 1750	80,624	119,771	200,395
1751 to 1775	141,080	208,140	349,220
1776 to 1800	150,299	103,045	253,344
1801 to 1825	200,330	67,511	267,841

The average of the whole period gives an annual quantity of wheat and rye of 279,794 quarters; and this surplus may be fairly considered as the nearest approach that can be made, with existing materials, to what is the usual excess of the production of bread corn, above the consumption of the inhabitants, when no extraordinary circumstances occur to excite or check cultivation.

In some of the early periods of this series, there have been great variations in the quantity exported, but not so considerable as within the last 36 years; we have two from 1791, the returns of exports from the rival ports of Dantzic and Elbing since that date, and thus, from both outlets of the Vistula, can trace the advance or decline of the surplus produce of corn, from the countries bordering on that stream.

Exports of Wheat and Rye from the cities of Dantzic and Elbing :

Years.	Wheat.	Rye.	Total.
	Quarters.	Quarters.	Quarters.
1791	256,680	25,714	282,394
1792	224,492	259,402	483,894
1793	303,597	336,660	640,257
1794	269,545	180,757	450,302
1795	247,842	24,517	272,359
	1,302,156	827,050	2,129,206
Average of the 5 years.	260,431	165,410	425,841

This considerable advance beyond former periods was the commencement of a still greater progress in the five next years.

Years.	Wheat.	Rye.	Total.
1796	Quarters. 416,235	Quarters. 111,720	Quarters. 527,955
1797	348,707	177,796	526,503
1798	385,862	29,011	414,873
1799	342,940	164,660	508,600
1800	554,202	26,617	580,819
	2,047,944	505,804	2,553,748
Average of } the 5 years }	409,588	101,160	510,748

In the next five years the quantity still increasing reached its greatest height, and more corn was then exported than in the following twenty years.

Years.	Wheat.	Rye.	Total.
1801	Quarters. 484,150	Quarters. 138,085	Quarters. 622,235
1802	663,222	345,8	1,009,042
1803	460,047	444,537	904,584
1804	544,207	134,400	678,607
1805	595,129	17,700	612,829
	2,746,815	1,080,542	3,827,357
Average of } the 5 years }	549,363	216,106	765,471

Of these 2,746,815 quarters of wheat, exported in the last noted five years, 1,754,114, being a yearly quantity of 350,820 quarters, was consigned to England, and the greater part of the remainder to France.

The year 1806 was the unfortunate time when the war, first with England, and afterwards, or rather before its close, with France, reduced Prussia to a low ebb, and for several years put a stop to the corn trade from the Vistula.

The state of the exportation for the last five years, forms a striking con-

trast with the corresponding term in the periods here seen.

Exports from Dantzic and Elbing :

Years.	Wheat.	Rye.	Total.
1821	Quarters. 126,136	Quarters. 16,128	Quarters. 142,264
1822	44,352	111	44,463
1823	68,450	74,370	132,820
1824	59,996	5,943	65,939
1825	118,681	15,414	134,095
	417,615	111,966	519,581
Average of } the 5 years }	83,523	22,393	101,916

The circumstances which produced that great exportation of corn, from 1801 to 1805, are of much importance in the consideration of the prospects of future exportations ; and the causes by which, in the space of the previous years, they were enabled to attain to that height, deserve to be traced.

Under the act 31 Geo. III. cap. 30, 1791, the ports of England had been constantly open for ten years, for the importation of wheat. If the average price of wheat was below 50s. the quarter, it was charged with a duty of 24s. 3d. ; if above 50s. and below 54s. a duty of 2s. 6d. ; and if above 54s. with a duty of only 6d. From the year 1791, when that act was passed, the price of wheat, with the exception of a short period in 1798, was constantly above 54s. ; and what was imported was, therefore, charged with only the duty of 6d. per quarter. During two of the ten years, wheat in England had been above 80s. per quarter, and, in the last of them, rose as high as 127s.

Our laws at that time laid restraints on the import of corn from Ireland, and that part of the empire had not made the progress it has since done in the cultivation of corn.

The ports of England were not

merely open during this term, but by the act of 36 Geo. III. cap. 21, large premiums were given on corn imported, to secure the importers, whether in British or in neutral vessels, certain prices, till 500,000 quarters should have been imported, after which the premiums were to be reduced. This act passed, in 1796, for a year, was continued by another act in 1797; and, with different intermediate modifications, premiums to indemnify the importers of corn and flour were established till 1801.

During the ten years, from 1791 to 1801, there was a constant demand in France for foreign corn; several deficient harvests having been experienced at the beginning of the revolution. The agents of France were employed both in Europe and America, in purchasing corn and hiring neutral vessels to convey it to France; paying but little regard to the price they gave for it, or to the rate of freight at which it could be transported. Holland, which scarcely has ever grown corn sufficient for its own consumption, felt a great want, owing to its internal sources of supply from Germany and Flanders being diverted from the usual channels, by the circumstances of the war.

Sweden for many years had looked for some supply from Prussia, not, indeed, of wheat to any extent, but chiefly of rye. During the period we are now considering, that country had been afflicted with several successive deficient harvests; and such was the distress, from want of corn, that a large part of the population had been compelled to use the bark of trees as a substitute for rye. That kingdom thus became a market which could take as much as her poverty could find the means of paying for. In addition to these external circumstances, the land in Poland was less burthened with taxes than it is at

present: the tenth groschen war-tax was not then enacted. Some other taxes, then imposed, have not been since abandoned;—in Prussia, likewise, taxation is higher now than from 1801 to 1805.

These combined circumstances gave, to the agriculture of Poland and Prussia, a portion of capital and motives to exertion, which produced the vast surplus that was exported from 1801 to 1805. Ten years of unexampled prosperity were, however, needed to reach the point which those years exhibit, and it was only by gradual steps that it was attained.

The impulse given by the open markets, and by the high prices which had opened them, acted with accumulated force in the next five years, and raised the surplus, as we have seen, somewhat higher.

If the same powerful stimulus could now be applied to excite the cultivators, in Poland and in Prussia, to increase their supplies of corn, as were experienced from 1791 to 1801, it would be reasonable to conclude that the result might be the same as is exhibited in the quantities of wheat exported from 1801 to 1805. It might produce, with ten years' increased exertion, and with the application of the capital created in those ten years of prosperity, a quantity equal to that which was exported in the years of the greatest surplus. I was told, when in Poland, that during these prosperous years, wheat was brought by land carriage to the Vistula, from distances far too great to bear the expenses without the enormous prices which it bore in the markets of England and France. It was sent, not only from the farthest parts of Gallicia, but even from the vicinity of Brunn and Olmutz, in Moravia. It was said that some of the wheat of Hungary was conveyed over the Carpathian mountains to Cracow, and

there shipped in flats for Dantzic and Elbing, whilst Volhynia and Podolia were emptied of their stores.

Whether these reports are true, or to what extent they are true, it is natural to suppose that the very high price which wheat had reached in the years under consideration, must have vastly extended the limits of the circle from which it would be collected, and would induce the inhabitants to dispatch to the high markets whatever could be spared by the exercise of the most rigid economy.

By the constant application of all these powerful stimuli, which were in operation during ten years, we have seen that at length the surplus of wheat, which the Vistula and its borders, extended to unusual dimensions, could yield, amounted to 550,000 quarters annually, or about sufficient, supposing the whole to be sent here for the consumption of this kingdom, with its present population, during the space of twelve days.

It is scarcely to be calculated that the same occurrences of circumstances propitious to the agricultural prosperity of the lands on the border of the Vistula, should again present themselves. Neither the demands of France nor England are likely to be so great, or to continue for so long a period, as at that time. It is scarcely to be calculated upon, that any future wars will be so long in duration, or spread over so extensive a field of operations, as those which rose out of the revolution of France; and it is therefore not likely that the quantity exported will ever rise to so great an amount. Whatever stimulus may be applied to excite the agricultural improvement of the banks of the Vistula, its effect must be weak and powerless, when compared with the excitement it received from 1791 to 1805.

If we suppose the cost of wheat to the grower in the vicinity of Warsaw,

to be about 28s. per quarter, and all the expenses of conveyance to our markets to be 20s. more, and that it could be sold here for 60s. or 64s. we may presume that such a stimulus would produce great exertions, and a correspondent increase of supply; some abatement in the force of that stimulus would be probably felt in an increase of freight, and other charges, but the prospect of a profit of 12s. or 14s. would give a powerful impulse to cultivation. What is here stated, is upon the supposition, of course a mere supposition, that no duty would be imposed on foreign wheat, on its introduction into this kingdom. Supposing a duty should be imposed, it will of course weaken the force of the stimulus; and if it should be so high, as, when added to the costs and charges, to raise it above the price at which it could be sold in our markets, it would become a repellant instead of a stimulus, especially if it should be viewed as a permanent enactment.

If a duty in this country of 10s. or 12s. per quarter was imposed, it would not allow of such a profit, on the supposition of the price being from 60s. to 64s. as to induce any great exertions to increase cultivation in the districts bordering on the Vistula. The chance of a rise occasioned by war, by a winter so severe as to injure vegetation, or by a rainy harvest season, might induce those of a speculative turn, to increase their growth of wheat, but those who have that turn, and have the means of indulging it, are so few, that they would produce no sensible increase in the general surplus.

I see no reason to believe, that with such a duty as I have mentioned for England, and a price from 60s. to 64s. and with some similar regulation in France, that the surplus corn produced in Poland, including all the countries near enough to the Vistula,

to send their corn to that stream, would materially increase in common seasons, or very much, if at all, exceed the average produce of that country: the greater part of this might probably be wheat, and if the duty were alike on all the various qualities of that grain, none would be sent here but that part which is the driest, heaviest, and whitest. The inferior descriptions would not pay for importation, unless the average in England was much more than 64s.

WILLIAM JACOB.

Corn Returns Office, 21st. Feb. 1826.

Copy of a Dispatch from Major-General Turner, Governor of Sierra Leone, to Earl Bathurst.

Sierra Leone, 25th January 1826.

MY LORD,

AMONGST the many objects which in this colony lay claim to my attention, there are very few which require to be considered more than that which is called the Liberated African Department. However adequate the arrangements might have been to the early state of this establishment, it is very evident that they have not been so for some time past, and equally evident that, from the numbers of captured slaves brought into the colony, they become every day less so. There have been more than 20,000 slaves landed in this colony, and during the last year upwards of 2400 have been emancipated. Should the trade in slaves continue to increase in the manner in which it has done for the last two years, there is no doubt, from the activity of our cruizers, but the number brought in here will increase also, and will very shortly become a very large and unwieldy mass of people; indeed, they are so already: and it becomes a matter of very serious

consideration how they are to be disposed of, or how they are to maintain themselves. Under the arrangements hitherto prevailing, they have been distributed amongst the villages, where they have been for years supported in idleness by the government; but the villages and poor land of the mountains where they are situated, already begin to refuse to them a scanty subsistence, and they have begun to wander in search of better soil and easier sustenance: and the evident tendency of this is, that they will retrograde, in the woods, into a state of nature and barbarism, or become vagrants about Freetown and the more populous villages. I, in some degree, meet this evil at present, by employing them on the public works, carrying bricks and other materials, giving them food, lodging, and some clothing, at the public expense; and I have given them in small numbers and under registry, to respectable people to cultivate land for domestic purposes. And it is found that under this system of putting them to easy and regular labour, such as they have been used to on their landing from the slave ships, that they become very orderly good labourers; but in the cases where they have been located in the villages, and have received gratuitous maintenance, they can with difficulty be induced to give a day's labour even for good wages. The expense of this establishment has been very great: I believe that the regulations under which I have reduced it during the last year, to the amount shown in the accompanying schedule of five years, may be safely persevered in, and a still greater reduction made; but as the whole system is defective, I cannot persuade myself that I can do more than to alleviate the evil. It would but lead to disappointment to imagine that a large

mass of poor ignorant people, without capital, skill, or industry, could be brought to maintain themselves, and to raise articles of export, without the assistance of labour wages ;—could such a system succeed even in England, the poor-rates might soon be abolished.

There are twelve villages established for the purpose of civilizing, instructing, and keeping together these people, and with establishments apparently very suitable, although practically very inefficient :—a clergyman, a schoolmaster, and a superintendent to each village, have the appearance of meeting every possible purpose ; but unfortunately the untowardness of the climate, the privations, fatigues, and uncongeniality of the situations with the former habits of the people who hold them, and the absence of personal interest or hope of progressive advancement, soon cause a decrease of numbers. At present there are in the colony but one church missionary (Mr Raban), and three Lutheran clergymen, five schoolmasters, and four superintendents. Amongst these there is not one person who has the slightest knowledge of agriculture, nor can I learn that there ever has been any person employed in the colony, who had any acquaintance either with European or tropical agriculture. Under such disadvantages, it is not to be wondered that cultivation has not made much progress. Should it meet your lordship's approbation that twelve superintendents from the West India islands, where cotton and coffee cultivation is best understood, men of colour, with an assistant or overseer to each, should be brought to this colony for the purpose of instructing these liberated Africans, and for superintending such plantations, as would not fail, under such facilities, to be formed here by capi-

talists. I am satisfied, that under such an arrangement, more would be done for the permanent improvement of the colony and condition of these people, in a few years, than is to be expected under the present system in half a century. Europeans cannot accomplish such objects here, and there are no native people capable of conducting such matters.

The measure would not be attended with much expense ; merely the conveying of those people here, together with a quantity of the best sea island cotton seed, to begin with. Coffee we have in abundance, indigenous, and of the finest quality ; and every merchant in the place, besides capitalists in London with whom I am acquainted, are ready to establish plantations, if superintendents or overseers could be found. Should your lordship be pleased to see in this plan anything deserving your attention, the best way would be, perhaps, to direct the governors of some of the West India islands to select and engage, at suitable salaries, coloured men of the above description, and a conveyance to be ordered for them here ; and I feel quite satisfied that a large saving of public money would speedily follow, and much confusion be avoided as well as embarrassment. The population would then get into a state similar to those of other countries ;—capital would diffuse its wholesome benefits ;—labour, industry, and skill, would be sure to be rewarded.

I must also respectfully submit, for your lordship's consideration, the very inadequate provision which is made for controlling the expenses of this establishment ; I am obliged to prove, sign, and become responsible for all expenditures on account of these people, and it is quite impossible that I can examine into these matters, which are very voluminous.

I happen to have very good health, and some acquaintance with business ; but I cannot expect, in such a climate as this, to be able long to continue such labours ;—those about me have all suffered, and I have lost their services. The superintendent of this department should be one of the first men in the colony, in point of salary, intelligence, and integrity. Your lordship will perceive by the annexed account, that even with the little time which I have been able to devote to it, I have accomplished a saving of one half upon the average of five years, or upwards of seventeen thousand a-year upon the money alone issued here, without reference to the stores from England, although the numbers in the colony must be greater than in any former year, as 2400 new negroes were landed from the slave ships during the year, a number far exceeding any of the years quoted. Your lordship will also perceive that I have reduced the number receiving rations one half ; and I am happy to say, that the proper authorities report to me, that the colony was never known to be so orderly, tranquil, and industrious, as at present.

The saving of this one year would much more than meet the expense of the plan which I have had the honour to submit to your lordship, and which I will pledge myself to make eminently successful. I feel greatly anxious about the responsibility of my being considered public accountant to this department, from which I derive no advantage.

I hope that your lordship will be pleased to overlook anything in this statement which may appear careless, as I have much to do, with little assistance.

I am, my lord, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES TURNER.

Governor.

The Earl Bathurst, K.G.

&c. &c. &c.

EMIGRATION.

Report from the Select Committee on Emigration from the United Kingdom.

THE Select Committee appointed to inquire into the expediency of encouraging Emigration, from the United Kingdom, and to report their observations thereupon to the House ; and to whom the reports of sessions 1823, 1824, and 1825, on the state of Ireland, and the employment of the poor there ; and also the petitions and memorials to the Colonial Department from persons desirous of emigrating from the United Kingdom, were severally referred ; have, pursuant to the order of the House, examined the matters to them referred ; and have agreed to the following Report :—

Your Committee are induced to consider that the following important facts have been established by the evidence which they have collected for the information of the House :—First, That there are extensive districts in Ireland, and districts in England and Scotland, where the population is at the present moment redundant ; in other words, where there exists a very considerable proportion of able-bodied and active labourers, beyond that number to which any existing demand for labour can afford employment : That the effect of this redundancy is not only to reduce a part of this population to a great degree of destitution and misery, but also to deteriorate the general condition of the labouring classes :—That by its producing a supply of labour in excess as compared with the demand, the wages of labour are necessarily reduced to a minimum, which is utterly insufficient to supply that population with those means of support and subsistence which are necessary to secure a healthy and satisfac-

tory condition of the community :— That in England, this redundant population has been in part supported by a parochial rate, which, according to the reports and evidence of former committees, specially appointed to consider the subject, threatens, in its extreme tendency, to absorb the whole rental of the country ; and that in Ireland, where no such parochial rate exists by law, and where redundancy is found in a still greater degree, a considerable part of the population is dependent for the means of support on the precarious source of charity, or is compelled to resort to habits of plunder and spoliation for the actual means of subsistence.

Secondly :—That in the British colonies in North America (including the Canadas, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward's Island) at the Cape of Good Hope, and in New South Wales, and Van Diemen's Land, there are tracts of unappropriated land of the most fertile quality, capable of receiving and subsisting any proportion of the redundant population of this country, for whose conveyance thither, means could be found at any time, present or future.

Thirdly :—That while the English, Scotch, and Irish evidence taken before your committee appears to establish the fact, that this redundant population is practically found to repress the industry, and even sometimes to endanger the peace, of the mother country ; the colonial evidence which has been taken by your Committee uniformly concurs in the opinion, that the industry and safety of the colonies will be materially encouraged and preserved by the reception of this population. The unemployed labourer at home necessarily consumes more than he produces, and the national wealth is diminished in that proportion. When transferred to new countries, where soil of the first quality of fer-

tility is unappropriated, and where the rate of wages is consequently high, it will be found that he produces infinitely more than he consumes, and the national wealth will be increased by the change, if the colonies are to be considered as integral parts of the nation at large.

If the foregoing positions be correct, your Committee feel justified in recommending the subject of emigration to the most serious and deliberate consideration of the House, as one obvious and immediate measure for correcting in some degree this redundancy of population, and for mitigating the numerous evils which appear to result from its existence. But in the prosecution of their examination of this most important and comparatively unexamined subject, they have not had either the time or the opportunity to perfect that scope of inquiry which would justify them in offering to the House any specific recommendations, with respect to the manner in which it might be convenient to make any experiment of emigration on an extended scale ; they therefore propose to limit themselves to an exposition of the principles by which the examination of the evidence taken before them has been uniformly directed, and to a short enumeration of the points which have formed distinct objects of inquiry. They have considered that no system of emigration would be recommended to the attention of parliament, which was not *essentially voluntary* on the part of the emigrants, and which did not relate to that part of the community which may be considered to be in a state of *permanent pauperism*. They also consider, that it would be in the highest degree desirable that any expense incurred for the purpose of emigration, to be contributed from national funds, should be ultimately repaid ; so that no gratuitous expendi-

ture should be necessary, except in cases which might justifiably be made exceptions to the general rule. It is true, the emigrations carried into effect in 1823 and 1825, under the superintendence of Mr Peter Robinson, the details of which are to be found in the Appendix, were supported by parliamentary grants of money, for which no repayment was pledged; but those emigrations were necessary for the purpose of experiment, and the justification of employing public money for that purpose is specially pleaded, on the ground of their being experiments which were necessary to precede any more extended scheme. The principal, if not the only objections which were raised against these experiments, rested on the ground of the expenditure of public money which they involved being unrepaid.

Your Committee, therefore, did not pause to consider the question, whether the benefits which might be expected to accrue, both to the mother country and to the colonies, from a measure so calculated to benefit both parties, would be sufficient to justify an outlay of national capital; but they proceeded to satisfy themselves with respect to the actual expenditure incurred in the emigration of 1823, (which, as an experiment, may be considered to have entirely succeeded) and to ascertain whether an equal or a less expense incurred in subsequent emigrations could be coupled with arrangements to supersede the necessity of any national outlay without repayment. In illustration of the views which they entertain on this part of the subject, they beg to refer to the following extract from an original paper which was laid before the committee of 1823, on the employment of the poor in Ireland, which is given at length in the Appendix to this report:—

“It is considered as unquestiona-

ble, although this measure is not in the slightest degree compulsory, that the poor man who offers his strength and energy as a labourer, but who, finding no demand, or at least no adequate demand for his services, is compelled to receive ‘parish relief,’ for the preservation of his own existence and that of his family, will accept this opportunity of bettering his condition, by laying the foundation for future independence, with eagerness and gratitude, when sufficient time has elapsed and proper pains been taken to make him understand the true nature and character of the change that is proposed for him.

“It is equally considered as certain, that parishes will anxiously accept this facility (as far as their own concurrence is required,) of relieving themselves, at a slight annual expense, of any present and pressing redundancy of population, and also of securing for the future the effectual prevention supplied by this measure for any accumulation of labourers whose services they may be incapable of remunerating.

“It is at once evident that this system of emigration could be made immediately applicable to Ireland and Scotland, provided that money was raised there for the purpose by local assessment, or that a specific tax was pledged for money lent for that purpose by the government.

“Although it may be argued, that there can be no actual redundancy of population as long as the waste lands in the mother country remain uncultivated, yet no person conversant with such subjects can contend that such redundancy does not now virtually, at least, exist; in other words, that there are not many strong labouring men for whose services there is no adequate demand, and who cannot be employed upon any productive labour that will pay the expenses of production; and

if any person should feel alarm, that under the operation of such a measure too great a proportion of the population might be abstracted, they may rest assured not only that this measure can be suspended or limited at any time, but that in point of fact it has that suspensive power within itself; for whenever there should exist at home an adequate demand for the services of able-bodied men out of employ, whether from the increase of productive industry, or from the demands of war, or from any other cause, there would be no longer a temptation to emigrate.

"It is also observed, that with such a system in regular and effective operation, no inconvenience could ever again result to this country from a temporary stimulus being given at any time to the population which could not permanently be sustained. It must not be forgotten, in a comprehensive view of such a system, that the pauper for whose labour no remuneration can be afforded at home, will be transmuted by this process into an independent proprietor, and at no distant period will become a consumer of the manufactured articles of his native country; nor, on the other hand, can any calculable period be assigned for the termination of such a system, until all the colonies of the British empire are saturated, and millions added to those who speak the English language, and carry with them the liberty, and the laws and sympathies of their native country.

"Such a system would direct the tide of emigration towards parts of the British empire which must be considered as integral, though separated by geographical position. The defence of these colonial possessions would be more easily supplied within themselves, and their increasing prosperity would not only relieve the mo-

ther country from pecuniary demands that are now indispensable, but that prosperity, in its reaction, would augment the wealth and the resources of the mother country itself."

The number of emigrants, sent out in 1823, was 182 men, 143 women, 57 boys between fourteen and eighteen, and 186 children under fourteen; forming together an aggregate of 568. The expense actually incurred for this emigration amounted, as will be seen in the appendix, to £12,593s. 3d., which was at the rate of £22, 1s. 6d. per head; the estimate on which the vote was taken was at the rate of £80 per family, taking the proportion of a man, a woman, and two children for each family. That estimate had been calculated with reference to the following details:—a man £35, a woman £25, 2 children £14; forming a total of £88, from which a deduction had been made of a little more than 9 per cent, on the supposition that a combined emigration would be found to be less expensive than an individual case; but the total absence of all previous preparation, and a high rate of passage, carried the actual expense beyond the estimate. It will, however, be observed, with respect to the emigrants actually sent out, that the men were beyond the proportion estimated: if that proportion had been preserved, the numbers would have been, 142 men, 142 women, and 284 children; consequently the actual expense would have been £12,496, instead of £13,347; and, in that case, the positive excess over the estimate would have amounted to £1136. Various reasons have induced your Committee to make their calculations at the rate of £20 per head; in making their calculations at that rate, which has peculiar relation to the colony of Upper Canada, your Committee beg it may be distinctly understood, that they are by

no means prepared to express an opinion that an emigration might not be carried on to Upper Canada at a still less rate of expense: for, by taking the proportion in each family, at three children, which your Committee have reason to believe would be found to be a more accurate proportion than two children to each family, the expense would necessarily be reduced in proportion. But your Committee are also of opinion that by previous arrangements, contracts upon an extended scale, especially if made for a series of years, and order and method were introduced into the whole of the system, would enable a less sum to effect that which has been actually effected in the case of the emigration of 1823, when no facilities existed, except in the assistance of the local government of Upper Canada, and in the zeal and exertions of the superintendent, Mr P. Robinson.

Your Committee would also observe, that the calculation of expense must necessarily vary in every different colony: the evidence shows that it would be diminished in Lower Canada, in New Brunswick, in Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward's Island; but if £80 be taken as the maximum expense necessary to convey one man, one woman, and *two children* only to Upper Canada; and if the evidence should show that that maximum can be repaid, it follows, *a fortiori*, that any minor expense can be repaid with greater ease.

With respect to New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, the distance naturally creating so much additional expense in the passage, the calculations applicable to North America in no degree whatever apply to those colonies. With respect to the Cape, the only emigration contemplated has been an emigration of labourers rather than colonists; which equally makes the calculation of Upper Canada inappli-

cable to that colony. Your Committee have supposed that the sum of L.80 could be raised on an annuity of L.3, 10s. 9d. for sixty years, interest being taken at 4 per cent; and under the supposition that such an annuity could be raised, their inquiries were directed to the question whether, supposing that the payment of such annuity, for the first seven years, were secured, the situation of the emigrant head of a family would be such as to enable him to undertake the payment of this annuity for the remainder of the period, in liquidation of the debt contracted by him for his removal from the mother country to the colony, and this without any prejudice or inconvenience to himself, it being provided, as a necessary collateral arrangement, that he might redeem that annuity at any time, on the common principles of redemption, thereby freeing his land from the charges which otherwise would contingently attach to it.

An examination of the evidence before your Committee will show that a large majority of the evidence which has been obtained upon this subject, is in favour of such a repayment being practicable, and that there would be little difficulty in collecting it, provided it were to be clearly explained that it was in the nature of a repayment of a debt contracted, rather than in a character of rent for land.

It will also be found to be generally stated, that in the case of an emigrant leaving the land at the expiration of seven years, when the repayment by the terms of the proposition would commence, the improvement of his cultivation for seven years would make the land itself an adequate security for such repayment.

It may be necessary to mention in this place, that with respect to the sum advanced by the emigrants your Committee never contemplated an actual repayment of money to be trans-

mitted to England, but a payment which should be applied in the colony for purposes which it is now necessary to defray exclusively from the funds of the mother country. In pursuing the subject in this point of view, your Committee were not only influenced by the consideration of the advantage of securing a practical repayment of any money which might be supplied from the national funds for this national object, but also by the conviction that the industry of the emigrant would be more effectually stimulated and confirmed by subjecting him to the repayment of the greater part of the debt incurred, the particulars and nature of which debt could be distinctly explained to him previously to his being received as a candidate for emigration, and which debt, if it be duly analysed, will not be found to differ in principle from any other debt which may be incurred by any individual for the object of bettering his own condition, and that of his family.

The inquiries of your Committee were then directed to the consideration, whether the payment of the annuity for the first period, namely, seven years, could be obtained from those parties at home, who were specially benefited by the removal of the redundant population.

Your Committee feel it hardly necessary to observe, that the cases of England, Ireland, and Scotland, essentially differ from each other in this respect; in England the poor-rate affords an immediate fund which can be made applicable to the repayment of any expense incurred for emigration. The evidence of Mr Hodges, the chairman of the West Kent quarter-sessions, is so copious and satisfactory upon this subject, that your Committee have only to call the particular attention of the House to it: and although Mr Hodges' observations are

limited to a particular district in Kent and Sussex, it will be found that the principle will apply generally to any part of England where a redundant population is found to exist.

In Scotland a poor-rate exists, though so modified by local circumstances, and so varying in its practical execution, as to make it very doubtful whether it could be made applicable in the same manner as the English poor-rate for such re-payment.

In Ireland the case is entirely different; nothing in the nature of a poor-rate exists by law; and therefore voluntary consent on the part of the proprietors of land towards any contribution for the purpose of emigration, must there, as well as in Scotland, be indispensable.

In the case of Ireland, whether such voluntary contribution were made by individuals, or by local assessments, to which individuals might be consentient, the principle of voluntary consent still remains necessary as part of the measure. Your Committee, therefore, beg to call the particular attention of the House to the very important evidence which they have received with respect to the state of that country. It will be found uniformly stated in that evidence, that the evils of pauperism are not less felt in Ireland in consequence of the non-existence of a parochial fund for the support of the poor; all the attributes of the most unbounded pauperism are to be found there; mendicancy, with all its train of evils, occasional outrage, habits of idleness even in those for whose labour some demand exists, and a character of destitution and misery pervading all the lower classes of society. It is also to be observed, that in a pecuniary point of view an indirect burden is imposed upon that part of the country where a redundant population exists. Your Committee therefore trust that the most de-

liberate attention of the proprietors of land in Ireland will be called to this subject, and that they may be induced to make voluntary contributions for the purpose of emigration, as a relief from those burdens which, though not legally imposed, are found practically to press upon them from the superabundance of the pauper population.

Your Committee at the same time are fully aware that neither the parishes in England or in Scotland, nor districts or proprietors of land in Ireland, will be induced to contribute for this purpose *unless it can be demonstrably shown that their interests, both general and pecuniary, will be benefited by such contribution.* Your Committee have no hesitation in expressing their opinion, that the general tenor of the evidence received by them justifies the expectation that such benefit will be therefrom derived.

There is, however, one special point of view with respect to Ireland, to which your Committee feel it necessary to call the attention of the House; it is that of a proprietor who is legally entitled to eject a redundant pauper population, which has been surreptitiously introduced into his property, but who, at the same time that he feels that his own interest and that of his family are materially involved in the removal of this population, shrinks from the exercise of his undoubted legal right, from his dread of the consequences which must attach to them from their removal. In such a state of circumstances, which your Committee have reason to believe is not of unfrequent occurrence, they cannot but contemplate the public advantage that would be derived from enabling such a measure on the part of an individual to be carried into effect, to the mutual benefit of the party dispossessing and of the party dispossessed; and they entertain the most confident expectation that a care-

ful examination into this part of the subject, on the part of the Irish proprietors, will convince them that their own interests will be consulted by a contribution towards the expense of the emigration of such tenants.

With reference to this particular part of the subject, your Committee beg to advert to an Act passed in the present session, intituled, "An Act to amend the law of Ireland respecting the assignment and sub-letting of lands and tenements." This Act was specially founded upon the evidence taken before the Committees on the state of Ireland, and has met with the entire concurrence of both Houses of Parliament. It provides against the recurrence of the evil which has been described in the preceding paragraphs. But the House will not fail to remark, that all the advantages that may be derived from this Act will be diminished, if not rendered absolutely nugatory, unless a well-organized system of emigration should be established concurrently with the measure itself.

With respect to the disposition of the tenantry ejected under such circumstances, your Committee have to observe, that the uniform testimony they have received from the evidence, from the petitions submitted to them, and from other sources of information, has induced them to believe that the knowledge, which is now generally disseminated, of the advantages which the emigrants of 1823 and 1825 have experienced, will be sufficient to induce not only any paupers who may be ejected under such circumstances, but all of the more destitute classes of the population in Ireland, to avail themselves with the utmost gratitude of any facilities which may be afforded for emigration. On this point your Committee beg to transcribe an extract from a letter addressed by Colonel Talbot, the founder of the Talbot settlement in Upper Canada, to a

member of your Committee, with respect to the emigration of 1823 and 1825.—“I accompanied Sir Peregrine Maitland last winter on a tour of inspection to the new Irish emigrant settlements, about one hundred miles below York. I was anxious to see how they were getting on, and whether the scheme of transporting the poor of Ireland to this country was likely to prove beneficial or not, and was happy to find them doing admirably. These people were sent out last summer, about 2000 souls, and did not get on their land till late in November; all of them that I saw had snug log huts and had chopped each between three and four acres, and I have every reason to think that they will realize a comfortable independence, in the course of this year, and be of no further cost to the government; and it was satisfactory to hear them expressing their gratitude for what was done for them.”

To resort to the subject of the repayment, by the emigrants, of part of the expense incurred, your Committee are fully aware that such repayment could alone be made practicable under the circumstances of an adequate market being found for the increased productions of the colonies, arising from the cultivation of the land by each successive series of emigrants; they have therefore directed a very extensive examination into this particular branch of inquiry. The evidence of Mr Uniacke upon this subject, as connected with the fisheries, will be found to be very interesting and satisfactory.

Your Committee thought it of a paramount importance to inquire whether the result of emigration on an extended scale, carried into effect from year to year by fresh exportations of emigrants, would not involve a material diminution of the expense incurred in each successive year, with reference to the numbers emigrating: and whether, in point of fact, a well-

organized system of emigration once established, would not carry itself on without extraneous assistance, or at least with assistance reduced to a very small amount, as compared with its original amount. Their inquiries, therefore, have been especially directed to this point; and it will be found that the general tenor of the evidence is in favour of the probability of a material diminution of expense in each successive year.

Your Committee being fully aware that one popular objection which is continually offered to any system of emigration on an extended scale, is the argument, that the benefit would be only temporary, and that the temporary vacuum would be rapidly filled up, felt it necessary to direct their inquiries to the consideration of such collateral measures, both of a legislative and of a practical nature, as might be calculated to repress, if not to prevent, that tendency; they have therefore pursued their inquiries very extensively, and have been fortunate enough to collect very valuable evidence on this branch of the subject.

Your Committee were also aware that a popular objection exists to emigration, on the ground, that the numbers to be taken away for the purpose of producing any benefit, must be necessarily so great as to prevent the possibility of any practical measure sufficient for the purpose. Your Committee therefore (without expressing any opinion whatever on this point) have directed their inquiries to this investigation, as comprising an element of primary importance in the consideration of emigration as a national measure.

This part of the subject may be illustrated by the following hypothetical statement. If a district be admitted to require only nine hundred labourers for its adequate cultivation, and if a thousand are found to exist

there, who are all more or less employed, it is evident, whether the case be supposed to happen in England or in Ireland, that the fund for the remuneration of labour in that district is divided among a thousand instead of nine hundred persons: the consequence may and probably will be, that the whole one thousand will receive less than would be adequate to support them, and that they may all present an appearance of want and destitution; but if one hundred labourers be removed from this district, and by that operation the supply of labour be proportioned to the real demand, the wages of labour will necessarily rise, and the condition of the remaining nine hundred may be materially improved; and what is of more importance, the actual work executed by those nine hundred labourers, in their improved condition, may and will be equal, if not superior, to that which was executed by the whole one thousand in their state of comparatively unremunerated service. In illustration of this subject, reference also may be made to the report, printed in 1824, of the select committee appointed to inquire into the practice which prevails in some parts of the country, of paying the wages of labour out of the poor-rates, &c. &c.

Your Committee observed in the reports of the committee appointed in 1817, and 1819, to consider of the poor laws, that a strong opinion was expressed as to an extension, unlicensed by actual law, of the relief afforded to able-bodied paupers, under which much of the evils incident to the poor law system have been considered to arise; and they thought it would be expedient to inquire in what manner and to what degree a well-organized system of emigration from England would facilitate the appropriation of the poor-rates according to their original application, as contended for by

those committees; and how far it might be found practicable to mortgage the poor-rates for the purpose of relieving the parishes from their superabundant population. They have therefore made particular inquiries on these points; and here they have again to revert to the valuable evidence of Mr Hodges, who has shown that voluntary efforts have already been made for this special purpose; that within his knowledge, parishes have furnished money from the poor-rates for the purpose of facilitating emigration; and that the emigrants, availing themselves of those facilities, had proceeded to the United States of America. Your Committee presume that it would be unnecessary to argue in favour of any determination of emigrants to our own colonies, provided it can be shown that the expense necessary to be incurred will not be so great as that which is necessary in their removal to the United States.

An application was made to your Committee by the Colombian Agricultural Association, with reference to the subject of receiving emigrants on the lands located to them in Colombia; and your Committee beg to refer to the evidence of Sir R. Wilson upon this point.

Your Committee beg also to inform the House, that during the course of their investigation, they received an application from Mr Chambers, a police magistrate, requesting to be examined upon the subject of that numerous class of persons in the metropolis chiefly under age, who being thrown upon the streets in perfect destitution soon resort to crimes for their support. A class so numerous, and whose case is so lamentable, deserves the attention of Parliament as one of those special cases which must be either left to the benevolence of charitable institutions, or of Parliament, to supply those funds for the first period of emi-

gration, which (as already explained) the Committee are disposed to recommend should be furnished by the individuals specially benefited, by the removal of the emigrants.

They would also beg to refer to the evidence of Mr Bodkin, the secretary of the Mendicity Society upon this subject.

It will be observed from the examination of the evidence, that in the event of any general measure of emigration being carried into effect, it has been suggested to the Committee, that several legislative measures might, under certain modifications, be introduced as auxiliaries to the object; such, for example, as to enable parishes in England to mortgage their poor-rates for the purpose of forming a fund for the emigration of their poor; to enable tenants for life in Ireland and Scotland to change their estates for that object; to enable parishes in Ireland and Scotland to effect a similar change, subject to the consent of some definite proportion of the contributors; to provide some means for regulating the erection of cottages in those agricultural parishes where rates

may be mortgaged for the purposes of emigration; to establish a board of emigration, with protectors of emigrants; to hold a lien on the lands allotted to the emigrants as a security until the original debt be liquidated, such lien to be in the nature of a land tax, redeemable at any time at a certain rate of redemption; to legalize apprenticeships, in no case to exceed seven years, during which one-fourth of the wages received by the apprentice should be set apart by the master in liquidation of the expense incurred in the transport of the emigrant, such apprenticeships only to continue until that expense shall have been liquidated, and after that period the apprentice to be entirely free.

Your Committee beg finally to express their decided conviction, that the circulation of their report, and of the minutes of evidence, throughout the United Kingdom and the colonies, will enable any future committee to resume the subject, with the means of proposing measures sufficiently definite to justify their recommendation of them to the House for its adoption.

26th May 1826.

No. II.

LEGAL CHRONICLE; or, RECORD OF REMARKABLE
TRIALS AND LAW PROCEEDINGS.

CASE OF THE COMET.

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICIARY.

*Bill of Suspension for Duncan
McInnes.*

Dec. 28, 1826.

This day the Court met soon after nine o'clock, and this case having been called,

The Lord Advocate stated, that he was about to save the Court some trouble, by at once acknowledging that he did consider the proceedings in this case liable to an objection of a technical nature, as touching the mode of making up the Record, which would render it, in his opinion, not fitting for the public prosecutor to insist for a maintenance of the sentence against the prisoner. The libel set forth in the major proposition two crimes—the one culpable homicide—the other negligent steering of a steam-boat, by which lives

were lost. Though these crimes were nearly of the same nature, yet the Prosecutor having set them forth as separate crimes, was bound to hold them as such;—and the indictment proceeded to say, not that the pursuers were guilty of the said crimes, or one or other of them, but that they were “guilty of the said *crime*, actors, or art and part;” thus leaving it uncertain which of the two crimes so set forth the Prosecutor meant to charge them with. The experience of the Court made them inclined to adopt this course, that its only effect would be to relieve the prisoner of a part of the confinement to which he had been sentenced; and considering what this individual had personally suffered, from the danger to which his life had been exposed, in consequence of the negligence of which he had been guilty, and the feelings which he must ever experience from the loss of the valuable lives which occurred on that occasion, perhaps there was not much reason to re-

gret that he did not suffer a longer imprisonment. With respect, however, to the two great objects of the trial—the one, the laying before the public the whole circumstances connected with that melancholy catastrophe, and showing distinctly where the blame lay—the other, the fixing the law, and certifying to persons concerned in the management of steam-boats, that those guilty of negligence would suffer punishment at the bar of a criminal court, these would stand untouched by the present proceeding, and would have the same salutary effects to the country, as if this prisoner had remained in jail for the whole period prescribed in the sentence against him. His Lordship then desired to be understood as in nowise admitting the validity of certain objections brought forward by the prisoner unconnected with the making up of the record.

Mr Cockburn then rose, and observed, that as, from the course adopted by the Lord Advocate, there was now no case before the court, it was therefore unnecessary to go into the merits of the case. As to the points his Lordship had not deemed it necessary to refer to, he (Mr Cockburn) was afraid there were grounds for a great deal more being said than either the Lord Advocate or the Court anticipated; but there was now no occasion to go into that part of the case either. The learned gentleman warmly acknowledged the fairness and liberality that had distinguished the conduct of his Lordship, which, he observed, had continued from the commencement of the case down to the present moment.

Lord Gillies, and the Lord Justice Clerk, highly approved of the candid course now adopted by the Lord Advocate.

The following judgment was then read by the Clerk of Court :—

The Lord Justice Clerk and Lords Commissioners of Justiciary, having

considered the foregoing bill of suspension and liberation, and what is above represented in regard to the mode in which the record was made up, in respect that the Lord Advocate does not insist in maintaining the sentence of the Judge Admiral, suspend the sentence, complained of, *simpliciter*, and grant warrant to, and ordain, the Magistrates of Edinburgh, and keepers of their tolbooth, to set the said Duncan M'Innes at liberty.

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICIARY.

Feb. 14.

Yesterday, William Pollock was accused of murdering, on the evening of the 11th Nov. last, Ann Renzie, his wife, in his own house in Gifford's Park, near Edinburgh, by giving her a stab in the lower part of the body, with a knife or some lethal weapon, in consequence of which she died shortly after. The circumstances of this case, though of a peculiarly interesting nature, cannot with propriety be published. They may, however, be shortly stated thus—Pollock and the deceased had been married for upwards of twenty years; and had four children in life and one dead. For a considerable time past they had lived on the worst terms—the wife being much addicted to drinking, and while in a state of intoxication exceedingly quarrelsome; consequently brawls frequently occurred in the house, and Mrs P. was on some of these occasions struck. On the night previous to her decease, Mrs Pollock appeared melancholy, and said she would rather sleep in a stair than go home, she was so much afraid of her husband. She did, however, venture home, much the worse of liquor. About midnight the panel called a neighbour (Mrs Leishman) to come and see his wife, then dead. This witness described the situation of the body and appearances of the room with

accuracy and minuteness ;—her evidence was fully corroborated. To Mrs Leishman the panel stated that his wife had died in consequence of the rupture of a blood vessel. A child of five years of age, however, said, at the time, "Daddy kicked and hurted my mammy;" upon which Pollock threatened the boy, who became afraid. Pollock, at the desire of Mrs Leishman, went for Dr White; and while on his way to his own house, he stated to that gentleman that he thought his wife's death was occasioned by her upsetting a table on which had been some earthenware, and then falling on the fragments on the floor; but at the period of this conversation it was not ascertained the deceased had been wounded at all. Dr White examined the body for nearly twenty minutes before he discovered the wound, which he said must have been inflicted by a sharp instrument, and could not be received in a fall. The evidence and conclusions of Dr White were fully borne out by Mr Newbigging and Mr Black of the police establishment, all concurring that the death could not by possibility have happened by the hand of the deceased herself, nor from accident. An attempt was made on the part of Pollock to make out that the deceased, from her disposition, might have received the wound from some person with whom she had quarrelled. The jury were addressed with much feeling by the Lord Advocate, and by Adam Paterson, Esq. in a speech of considerable ingenuity and talent, for the panel. The Lord Justice Clerk then delivered an impressive charge to the jury, who, without leaving the box, unanimously found the prisoner guilty. Sentence was delayed till this day at two o'clock.

An interesting, though distressing scene, occurred in the course of this trial. A blind girl, a daughter of the panel, was placed in the witness' box,

but declined to take the oath till she was informed of what she was to swear to. She then stated she did not wish to give evidence, or words to that effect, but subsequently said she would tell the truth. Her feelings, however, rendered her so agitated, that it was found necessary to remove her out of Court.

This day the Court met at two o'clock, agreeably to adjournment; present, the Lord Justice Clerk, and Lords Pitmilley and M'Kenzie, when the panel was again placed at the bar, and the verdict of the Jury having been read over, the Lord Advocate moved the judgment of the Court.

Lord Pitmilley. This was a case of the deepest species of atrocity, so much so, indeed, that during the proceedings of the previous day he had doubted whether it were possible that the panel could be guilty of such a horrible crime; but the proof which had been adduced, and the unanimous verdict of the respectable and intelligent jury, his Lordship was sorry to say, had completely satisfied his mind of the guilt of the unfortunate man at the bar. His Lordship concluded by proposing that the prisoner should suffer the last penalty of the law.

Lord M'Kenzie shortly concurred.

The Lord Justice Clerk then addressed the panel. You were yesterday, said his Lordship, arraigned at this bar upon one of the most horrible charges that could be exhibited against any human being, and after the most anxious investigation you have been found guilty of the awful crime of taking away the life of the wife of your bosom, under circumstances of atrocity revolting to human nature. His Lordship then alluded to the circumstances as proved in evidence, of the dissipated habits of the deceased and the depravity of her conduct; but this depravity his Lordship much feared was in a great measure to be attri-

buted to the ill treatment she had received from the panel, whose ungrateful temper had frequently led him to administer chastisement with extreme cruelty. His Lordship cautioned the prisoner against entertaining the slightest hope of mercy, urged him to look no longer to the affairs of this world, but to prepare for the awful change that awaited him. The sentence of the Court was then read, adjudging the panel to be carried back to the jail, there to be fed on bread and water till Wednesday the 22d day of March next, and on that day, between the hours of eight and ten o'clock, to be executed on the common gibbet to be erected in the Lawn Market, and his body thereafter to be given over to Dr Munro for dissection.

JURY COURT.

Brown v. the Executors of the late Duke of Queensberry.

This was an action of damages brought by Mr Brown, tenant of Dalpedder, for recovering damages from the executors of the late William, Duke of Queensberry, for the loss occasioned by the reduction and removal from a lease which he held from Duke William, six years before its expiry.

The claim made on behalf of the pursuer was—

1st, For the profits which the farm would have yielded for the last six years of his lease, and of which he was deprived by the decree of reduction; and,

2dly, For the loss occasioned by his being obliged to sell his stock at Whitsunday 1822, at which time the prices of farm produce and stock were unusually low.

In order to prove the loss under the first head, he adduced several witnesses to prove the rent at which the farm could have been sublet at Whit-

sunday 1822, and also its gross produce, after deducting interest on the capital employed, and the expenses of management.

The average of rent at which it would have sublet was proved to be about 200*l.*, and the net produce, after deducting expenses, was proved to average about 270*l.*

In charging the Jury, the Lord Chief Commissioner left it to the Jury either to adopt the net produce, or the subrent which had been proved, as the rule for fixing the damages on this head; but recommended the subrent as the more certain criterion. And this view of the case gave rise to a very important point, viz. Whether any or what sum should be allowed, over and above the proved subrent, as profit to the tenant, of which he was defrauded by the loss of his lease. His Lordship observed that the determination of this question depended upon circumstances. In this particular case, the tenant was an old man, and either from his age or other causes, had not got another farm, and was deprived of an opportunity of employing his skill and capital in the profession to which he had been bred; and he was therefore entitled to some compensation, over and above the rent at which the farm could have been let, for the loss and disappointment occasioned by his being deprived of his lease six years before its natural expiry; at same time, he did not think this claim could be maintained for the whole period of six years, and that it was a question for the Jury to determine, what was a fair indemnification to the tenant in the circumstances of the case.

With regard to the second point, he considered that the claim for the loss from the sale of stock, was well-founded; and if the lease were now expired, as was the case in some other questions of a similar nature that had

recently occurred, the difference betwixt the prices at Whitsunday 1822, and the prices at the present time, might be held as a rule for ascertaining the damage. But as the lease in this case did not expire till Whitsunday 1828, it was difficult to ascertain with any certainty, what that difference might be at Whitsunday 1828. The Jury had heard the opinions of the different witnesses on this point, and could only come to a conclusion as to the amount of damage claimed, from the impression which that evidence had made upon them.

The damages awarded under the first head, was the sum of 200*l.* annually, proved as the rent at which the lands could have been sublet, after deducting 67*l.* as the rent payable to the Duke, and 172*l.* farther, on account of the loss of profit, &c.

The damages proved for the loss of the sale of stock, on the footing that the present prices were to continue till Whitsunday 1828, at, or nearly the present rates, was about 300*l.* and the Jury awarded 250*l.*

Damages on the whole 1220*l.* Counsel for the pursuer, Messrs Moncrieff and Whigham, Alex. Goldie, W.S. agent.

Counsel for the defenders, Messrs Murray, Jeffrey, Cockburn, and Keay; Lamont and Newton, W.S., agents.

JURY COURT.

Dr J. Hamilton, jun. v. Dr Hope.

March 27.

The Court met to try an action of damages at the instance of Dr Hamilton, Professor of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh, against Dr Hope, Professor of Chemistry in the same University, for defamation. From the high respectability of the parties, the case excited great interest, and the Court-room was crowded to excess.—The damages were laid at 5000*l.*

The substance of the first issue was—Whether, in the month of April, 1825, at a meeting of the Senatus of the University, in the presence and hearing of the Professors, the defender did impute intended falsehood to the pursuer.

The substance of the second and third issues was—Whether a memorial and petition, presented by the pursuer to the Magistrates of Edinburgh, the patrons of the University, in January 1824, craving that the graduates of the College of Edinburgh should be required to learn the treatment of the diseases of women and children, and that the Professor of Midwifery should be admitted a member of the Medical Faculty, and exercise all the powers and privileges with regard to graduation, which other members of the Faculty possess, contained the following words, or words to the following effect, viz. “While the memorialist (pursuer) can prove, that the present Professor of Chemistry does not teach the process of Pharmacy, nor the making of chemical preparations for the apothecaries’ shops, he is ready to bear testimony, in common with the public at large, to the great value of Dr Hope’s services as a Professor in the College of Edinburgh, and to express his conviction, that his admirable and scientific course must be of the highest interest to every physician. It is well known that this has never been attempted, and that the Professor of the Practice of Physic for the last half century has confined himself to a description of the diseases most commonly met with, such as fever, general inflammatory affections, &c.; at any rate, the memorialist positively asserts, that, within his recollection, the Professor of the Practice of Physic has not entered into any details respecting the diseases of women and children, and for the plain reason, that the other subjects of his lecture filled up all the time of his course. That he (the

pursuer) was induced to make this improvement on the plan of his predecessors, because he found that neither the Professor of the Practice of Physic, nor any of the other Professors constituting the Medical Faculty, treated of such diseases. If the honourable patrons feel any difficulty in assenting to this latter proposition, they are referred to the bills of mortality of London. Thus, in the year 1820, (the last account to which the memorialist has had access,) of nineteen thousand three hundred and forty-eight deaths during that year, eight thousand three hundred and fifty were under ten years of age, and of that number seven hundred and twenty-five were still-born. Of the remainder, viz. seven thousand six hundred and twenty-five, three thousand five hundred and seventy-seven are alleged to have died of convulsions and teething. Hence it must be evident, that nearly one-half of the children under ten years of age, who died in the year 1820, in London, were afflicted with diseases, on which no information is given to the medical students of Edinburgh, by those Professors who style themselves the Medical Faculty. Be the reasons of the Medical Faculty what they may, the members of the Faculty cannot deny that the diseases of women and children form a necessary part of the education of every medical man. It is, moreover, impossible for them to allege, that any one of their number does teach those subjects, and it would not be a little extraordinary, if, after their former attempt, they should pretend to be unwilling to burden the students with the additional expense. That no man can now practise physic with safety to the public, without a knowledge of the diseases of women and children, and that none of the members of the Medical Faculty, as presently constituted, do teach that knowledge." And whether

the whole or any part of the above averments were known to the pursuer to be false at the time he presented the memorial to the Magistrates.

Mr H. Cockburn opened the case for the pursuer in a speech of great length, in which he strongly pointed out to the Jury the deep injury likely to be sustained by his client from having been stigmatized by the defender at a meeting of the Senatus of the University of Edinburgh as an utterer of wilful falsehood, an assertion made in the absence of the pursuer; no expression of regret had been made by the defender for the imputation, who, on the contrary, said the learned gentleman now stood up before a jury of his country, and justified the expressions he had made, with the view of extinguishing the pursuer, and rendering him infamous for ever. In conclusion, he observed, that the question for the jury was not as to the amount of damages, but that by their verdict they should mark their disapprobation of the conduct of the defender.

A number of witnesses were then examined by the pursuer, among whom were Professors Bell, Napier, Sir W. Hamilton, Bart. Coventry, and Russel, who successively proved that the expression imputed to the defender was uttered by him at the time and place set forth in the issues; the above-mentioned gentlemen also gave it as their opinion that the facts stated in the pursuer's memorial to the patrons of the University, did not call for the epithets that had been applied to him. Mr William Wood, surgeon, who had examined the MS. of the memorial, and marked some alterations, also expressed a similar opinion.

The Solicitor-General opened the case for the defender in a speech which occupied nearly four hours, in course of which, he stated that his client could not have been actuated by malice, but was repelling an injurious

attack made on his character by the pursuer, in a memorial to the patrons of the University, of which he admitted having printed 200 copies, and that its circulation was not confined to the patrons and Professors of the University.

Principal Baird, Professor Dunbar, Dr Alison, Dr Fife, Dr Anderson, Rev. Dr William Ritchie, Dr Home, Dr Mackintosh, Dr Cullen, and Mr Dickson, were then called for the defender, whose evidence went to prove that Dr Hope exhibited the different processes of chemical pharmacy in his class, according to the three different Pharmacopœias of Edinburgh, London, and Dublin, taking that of Edinburgh for his text-book, and that that part of his course formed a most important branch of medical study. Several of the witnesses also proved that the late Dr Gregory and Dr Home treated of the most important of the diseases incidental to women and children, the negative of which had been asserted by the pursuer in his memorial; one of the witnesses (Dr Mackintosh) who had attended Dr Hamilton's class for three courses, and was not sure but he had attended a fourth course, said he had received more information from Dr Gregory on the subject of those diseases than he had from Dr Hamilton.

A great mass of documentary evidence was put in, which closed the case for the defender.

Mr Jeffrey replied for the pursuer in a very powerful speech. The Lord Chief Commissioner summed up the evidence to the jury with his usual perspicuity. At the close of his charge, his Lordship observed, that as the act did not require that a full Court should sit to receive the verdict, he should retire, having left a sick-bed to attend his duty on the present occasion. The jury retired at a quarter before two o'clock yesterday morning, and, after

an hour's consultation, returned a verdict for the pursuer—Damages L.500.

COURT OF SESSION—FIRST DIVISION.

His Majesty's Printers v. the Bible Society.

May 12.

Lord Hermand wondered that the Bible Society made such an attack on vested rights. From the nature of his office, the King was head of the Church as well as of the State, and the foundation of this right lay deeper than that noticed in the Confession of Faith; it was one of the brightest jewels of the Crown, and God forbid it should ever be deprived of it. The translation of the Bible by King James was received in Scotland as well as in England—it was by the King's authority that it was printed and published, and therefore he was of opinion that no one could exercise such rights but by the King's permission.

Lord Craigie was clearly of opinion that the King's printer had the sole and exclusive right of publishing Bibles in Scotland, and referred to several acts of Parliament in support of his opinion. It was a right sanctioned by use, and it was according to the law and constitution of Scotland, that the King had the power of printing Bibles, as he had of printing acts of Parliament.

Lord Balgray considered this to be solely a case of law. He did not look upon the exercise of the right by the first magistrate in the state as a monopoly; it was merely a great and important trust confided to him, and it was placed in his hand by the common law, the good honest common law, and the statute law of Scotland. The King of Scotland was the head of the Church, and it was agreeable to our law, that he should be supported in that office. He was the successor to all bishops.

and is the patron of all churches that are vacant. Although the General Assembly might meet and pray, they never proceeded to business without his Majesty's Commissioner being present. The purity of the Scriptures was of paramount importance, and had been watched strictly by the church. From 1690 to the present time, they uniformly find the General Assembly giving instructions to their commissions to apply to the civil power to watch over the purity of the sacred writings. It appears by several decisions of the Court of Session on cases similar to the present, concerning the printing and publishing the Scriptures, that the questions were uniformly decided in favour of the royal prerogative. He had no doubt that the prerogative of the crown extends to Bibles of every description, to the Hebrew, the Greek, the Latin, and the Gaelic, as well as to the English Bible. With regard to the patent, the terms of it are very general; it secured all rights and privileges belonging to their predecessors, in so far as they did not infringe the articles of Union. He was decidedly of opinion that the suspenders, possessing the royal patent, had the sole power and privilege of publishing the sacred writings.

Lord Gillies thought that the King was in no sense of the term head of the Church in Scotland—he could prescribe no form of prayer, nor could he alter the Confession of Faith. The translation of the Bible in common use is the authorized translation of the Church of England. There the King, as supreme head of the Church, has the power of granting privileges for printing and publishing the Bible. If the King has authorized the translation, then he has the power; but if he has not authorized the translation, then it might be a question whether he has the power of granting rights for publishing. The right of printing, it was said, is founded on use and wont,

and, therefore, by this view, the extent of the prerogative must depend on the extent of the usage. The King undoubtedly at one time was the head of the Church in Scotland, but the case was altered at the Revolution. With regard to the patent right of the suspenders, he conceived that it only extended to the right of printing, not to the preventing the importation of Bibles from England.

The Lord President thought that the King, although not the head of the Church, had the right and power over Scotland in regard to the accuracy of the sacred Scriptures. In England the King was the head of the church, and could order all things relative to the management of that body; but while he exercised that power, he could grant no patent, and it was under a patent of the Great Seal that the King's printer was appointed. With regard to the question before the Court, the translation of the Bible now in use was that of King James; but had it been proclaimed by authority as the only one to be adopted, it would have been resisted by all the sects then in England; but he wisely left it to find its own way, and its intrinsic merit had obtained it general circulation. His lordship here gave a long and interesting historical account of the different translations of the Bible, and took notice of the gross errors in almost all the English editions, even in those lately printed. He considered the Bible printed in Edinburgh the most accurate of any ever issued from the press. The Crown, if it chose, might not grant a right to Scotland to print the Bible, but it was bound to provide the people with the Sacred Scriptures.

Mr Cranstoun begged to observe, that the interdict complained of included Bibles, Testaments, Psalm Books, Books of Common Prayer, Catechisms, larger and shorter, and Confession of Faith. He wished to know if the in-

terdict was still meant to be in force against all these books.

Mr Jardine, on the part of the King's printers, said the interdict would be in force against all of them. With regard to the Book of Common Prayer, the interdict would remain *in statu quo*.

Mr Cranstoun also wished to know, as it was of importance to his clients, whether the interdict also extended to all Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and Gælic Bibles.

The patent right of the suspenders was read, and it only granted the exclusive privilege of printing all Bibles, &c. in the *English language*.

JURY COURT.

Damages.—*James Greig, writer in Lerwick, v. Arthur Edmonston, physician in Lerwick.*

Edinburgh, June 7.

Wednesday, this case, which has excited great interest in the Shetland Isles, came on before the Lord Chief Commissioner and a respectable jury. The following are the principal portions of the issues :—

It being admitted that the pursuer is procurator-fiscal of the Sheriff-court of Zetland, and was so during the year 1822 : It being also admitted that, in the year 1823, the defender printed and published a letter addressed to Sir William Rae, Baronet, Lord Advocate of Scotland : It being also admitted that the words and names which are herein after set out, or words to that effect, are contained in the said letter : Whether the said names and words were used, and were intended to be understood, in the sense, and according to the meaning, herein after set forth, viz :—"My Lord, as the acknowledged organ of Government, and the director of its legal proceedings for Scotland, I

addressed to you an official letter in August 1821, respecting the conduct of Mr James Greig, procurator-fiscal for the Islands of Zetland. In that communication, I pointed out to you the capricious and criminal proceedings of Mr Greig as the local guardian and asserter of the Crown rights, and I supported my allegations by necessary documents. Not contented with deserting the obvious interests of his confidential public employers, when his services in their cause were most needed, he countenances his private client in the commission of a crime to destroy the rights of the former, which, considering the relative responsibility of the parties concerned in it, might have subjected both to transportation beyond seas. In one word, the guardian of the public rights countenances and concurs with the keeper of the public records in effecting a forgery in a crown charter! No milk and water sophistry can dilute the strength of this plain reasoning, soften down the unchangeable facts on which it is founded, or enable Mr Greig to evade the indelible reproach which this disclosure must entail on his memory. I could mention many instances where notorious delinquents have been permitted to escape, and those guilty of trivial improprieties have been tried by special juries; where streets have been narrowed, and even nuisances allowed to be erected, to favour the views of particular persons. Such a combination of power, and such a use of it, has had a most pernicious effect on the moral character of all classes which come within the vortex of its capricious and devouring influence. Illegally withheld from their just share of Parliamentary representation—subjected to the inconsistent partiality of a time-serving attorney, who, in his capacity of judge, may, from the very nature and multiplicity of his offices, be supposed to have a personal interest in many of the decisions which he gives—to the distrain-

ings of a wide-grasping tax-gatherer, and deprived of the benefit of appeal to any tribunal from which redress could be obtained, unless at an expense not to be encountered, the lower classes of people, more especially in this country, view superiority of rank with inextinguishable envy and hatred, for the influence which the laws have conferred on some individuals for the good of all, becomes to them a source of misery and oppression. It remains now to be seen what portion of grace is to be dealt out to Mr Greig among others, for he paid one thousand pounds lately for one of those marine dwellings, built on the property of which the crown is unlimited proprietor, and which dwelling is the one best adapted for smuggling of them all."

And whether the whole or any part of the said words are of and concerning the pursuer, and were used and intended to be understood in the sense and according to the meaning herein before set forth, and are false and calumnious, and to the injury and damage of the said pursuer.

Or whether, during the years 1811 and 1823, and intervening years, in a process of advocacy in the Court of Session, at the instance of one John Morison against the pursuer, as procurator-fiscal for the Zetland Islands, the pursuer did maintain that certain ground between the streets of Lerwick and the sea was the property of the Crown; and whether, in violation of his duty as procurator-fiscal aforesaid, the pursuer did, during the years 1818, 1819, and 1820, and during the dependence of the aforesaid process, appear in the sheriff-court of Zetland, as agent for Francis Heddell, and did maintain that the said ground was the property of the said Francis Heddell.—Damages laid at L.2000.

Mr Cockburn having stated the case for the pursuer, a considerable number

of documents were put in and read by the clerk.

Mr William Reid, bookseller, Leith, James Maconnochie, Esq. advocate, Sheriff-depute of Zetland, Sir H. Jardine, Mr Youngson, W.S. and Mr Duncan, Sheriff-substitute, were examined for the pursuer, and gave him the very highest character.

The defender adduced no witnesses.

Mr J. A. Murray, in a long and eloquent address, defended Dr Edmonston, and contended that the principal assertions in the letter had been fully proved by the pursuer's own witnesses.

The Lord Chief Commissioner then went over the evidence to the jury, and laid down the law, as applicable to the case, in a remarkably distinct and perspicuous manner.

The jury then retired, and after being enclosed for a few minutes, returned a unanimous verdict for the pursuer. Damages L.300.

COURT OF SESSION—SECOND DIVISION.

STAKE NETS ON THE SEA SHORE.

Earl of Kintore and others v. James Forres of Scaton, General Gordon Cumming Skene, and others.

June 8.

On Thursday last, this most important case was decided by the Second Division of the Court of Session.

The pursuers are proprietors of salmon fishings on the river Don. The defenders are possessed of estates, with grants of salmon fishing from the Crown, on the coast to the north of that river. These defenders had recently erected stake nets for catching salmon at their respective fishing stations, the nearest of which stake nets were from one to two miles distant from the mouth of the river, and some of them were eight or ten miles dis-

tant from it. In consequence of these erections the pursuers instituted this action, for having it found and declared, that, by the ancient statute law of Scotland, which is still in force, all such fixed machinery for catching salmon on the coast of the ocean is positively prohibited, and ordered to be put down.

The defenders admitted that such machinery was prohibited in the mouths of rivers, as was solemnly decided both in the Court of Session, and in the House of Lords, in the Tay case; but they contended that, of the whole series of statutes on this subject, not one could be fairly construed to apply to the proper ocean.

Lord Mackenzie, before whom the case was pleaded, ordered informations to the Court; and when those papers came to be advised, their Lordships ordered a hearing in presence. Four Counsel were accordingly heard on different days last session. And on Thursday last, the Court pronounced judgment in favour of the defenders, and found them entitled to expenses. In pronouncing this judgment, however, their Lordships were not unanimous. Lords Justice Clerk, Pitmilley, and Alloway, gave decided opinions for the defenders. Lord Glenlee's opinion was in favour of the pursuers.

It is understood that the Parliamentary Committee on the salmon fisheries have been awaiting the issue of this case, in order that the actual state of the law respecting stake nets on the coast might be known. No doubt the case may still be carried to the House of Lords. But from the dispatch with which business is now conducted there, a very short time will certainly lay it finally at rest.

There are numerous other actions in Court, which will be regulated by this leading case.

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICIARY.

July 14.

The Court met pursuant to adjournment, when Charles Lamond and John Smith were placed at the bar, charged with wilfully and maliciously shooting at William Stevenson and Richard M'Lachlan, officers of excise, with intent to murder, or to maim, disfigure, or disable them; and also with obstructing and deforming them in the execution of their duty; the first part of the charge being in contravention of the act 6 Geo. IV. c. 126, by which the crime is made capital, and punishable accordingly. The prisoners pleaded Not Guilty.—William Ferguson, charged in the same criminal letters, was outlawed for not appearing.

Mr Jeffrey (with whom was Mr C. McDougall) said that the prisoners had no connexion with the affray; in fact, that they were not present during any part of the transaction, but had no witness to call in support of their averment.

William Stevenson, officer of excise, stated, that on the 25th of April, he and Richard M'Lachlan proceeded to survey the hills of Crawthienaird and Lawsie, accompanied by George M'Hardy, ground-officer to Mr Farquharson of Invercauld. As they approached the hills, they saw a hut smoking. When about 200 yards off it, they saw two men run into it, and ten or twelve came round it. The two men fired each a shot. Witness's party were about 150 yards distant when they saw the other men come out, some of whom had guns, and others had sticks. When the shots were fired they thought it best to retire to the road; nine men pursued them, fired, gave a great halloo, and overtook them. Witness counted fifteen shots before they were overtaken; he heard the sound of the balls, and saw the ground broken by them two or three yards before him, and

about eight inches from his right side. Heard one of the men say, "Take aim, and shoot the —." They had their faces blackened, and some had their coats turned. One of the men knocked witness down by throwing a stone at him, at which time M'Lachlan was seventy or eighty yards before him. He observed the man particularly. George M'Hardie lifted witness up, and they travelled on a few yards, when three of the men came up, knocked him down again, and kicked him several times. They attempted to make for the road, but the men continued to fire till they turned them from going in that direction, and told them if they went that road they would shoot them. Three men had guns, who did not come so close up as the rest; and whom he saw load their pieces. The road witness wanted to go was the nearest to Cra-thie kirk; the way the men wanted them to go was contrary. The witness detailed a long-continued course of attacks upon him and Mr M'Lachlan, accompanied by firing, during which a ball passed between them when they were not more than eighteen inches asunder, which struck the road. M'Hardy went off another road soon after the commencement of the assault. The men kept with them for three or four miles, and before leaving them they were again knocked down and kicked. Both witness's name and M'Lachlan's were frequently mentioned by the men in an opprobrious manner. They went about a mile farther, to Ogilvie's public-house, where they stopt all night. Witness's head was bleeding and swelled, and he was bruised about the body. A medical person was sent for, but he was not at home. They walked home next day, and on Friday witness was bled by Dr Robertson; he was very little out the day after the assault, but was not incapable of surveying from what had taken place. On the 13th of May witness recognised Lamond among

a number of other persons at Ballater as one of the persons who struck him; he now identified him, but could not speak as to Smith, who, however, was like one of the men who ran to Mr M'Lachlan.

Richard M'Lachlan was also examined at great length, but his evidence, with trifling exceptions, consisted of details of the treatment he received, which was equally brutal with that suffered by Stevenson, during which he was asked if "He was not content with what he got last week?"—(Alluding to a seizure of malt which he had made.)—He identified both the prisoners as two of the men, but neither of them had guns. —Lamond struck witness repeatedly; he also received some blows from Smith, but he was by no means so bad as Lamond; he threw stones, but did not hit him.

Cross-examined.—Smith's coat was turned. It was between four and five o'clock when they reached Ogilvie's inn.

By the Court.—Lamond was fully two hours near him, and Smith about the same time.

George M'Hardy, an old man, gave his testimony very reluctantly, but generally his evidence was corroborative of that of the two former. The men, whose faces were so blackened that no one could know them, did nothing more to him than tumble him over. He did not know any of the men on the hill so as to be able to swear to them.

Cross-examined.—Knows the prisoners quite well, but knew not if he saw them on the hill that day; he did not hear their voices. He was so much afraid that he was nearly out of his judgment. Their families might have had sheep on the hills, as they had a right of pasture there. Witness's party was a good while going up the hill, but a short time coming down.—(A laugh.)

Mr Andrew Robertson, surgeon, read his report of the injuries received by Messrs Stevenson and M'Lachlan, from

which it appeared that the former had a swelling on the side of his head about half the size of an egg, a large bruise on his side, and was bruised on the back ; he bled him freely on the Friday ; the latter was severely bruised, but not so bad as Stevenson.

The declarations of the prisoners were now read.—Lamond's stated that he was engaged with his father's carts on the day libelled on, and Smith's stated that he was sure he was at home on that day, because he was always at home.

The Lord Advocate said he should pass from the statutory offence, and confine the case to assaulting and deforcing. It had always been his wish that such cases should be disposed of at the Circuits, but the present one was of so grave a nature that he had thought proper to bring it before the High Court, and by speedy punishment in the event of a conviction, to restore that part of the country where the crimes were committed to that state of peace and quietness that was so desirable. His Lordship, in going through the evidence, adverted to reports that prevailed, that the factors in that part of the country connived at illicit distillation ; he hoped it was not so, as it appeared from the evidence that the respectable factor to Mr Farquharson did not connive, he having sent the witness M^r Hardy to aid the officers in its detection. That witness he did not think had given a fair evidence, whether from the influence of fear, or otherwise, he could not judge.

Mr Jeffrey expressed his perfect agreement with the Lord Advocate in his condemnation of illicit distillation, and the evils attending it, which the learned gentleman reprobated in strong terms. He entered on a lengthened and most ingenious defence of the prisoners, against one of whom, Smith, he said nothing was proved. Against Lamond he maintained that a verdict of

condemnation could not be returned on such evidence as had been adduced.

The Lord Justice Clerk, in opening his charge to the Jury, expressed his approbation of the proper mode the Lord Advocate had adopted in bringing the case before a jury unconnected with that part of the country where the crimes were committed. His Lordship went through the evidence with his usual minuteness and perspicuity, and concluded by expressing his conviction that the jury would return such a verdict as would satisfy their consciences and the country.

The jury retired for a short time, and returned a verdict of Guilty against Lamond, but the libel against Smith Not Proven.

Lord Pitmilley said he had been present at many trials of a similar nature, but he never was present at a trial where the crime committed was so very atrocious, or with such a total disregard to what might happen to the safety of those they were opposing, and what was worse than all, with a total disregard to all law—as if in a country where there was no law to repress them, and prevent them from carrying their purpose into effect. It was impossible to allow a person convicted of such a crime to remain in this country, and the sentence he would propose was transportation, and that for no inconsiderable period. His Lordship therefore proposed the punishment of transportation for fourteen years.

Lord Meadowbank and Lord Allo-way concurred.

The Lord Justice Clerk said, the prisoner Lamond had been convicted, on the most satisfactory and conclusive evidence. He, with other fourteen guilty associates, had attacked the officers with fire-arms, in open day, and it was not from any design of the aimers that the crime of murder was not committed, but by the interposition of Almighty God ; and had death ensued,

the prisoner would have stood in a very different situation. His Lordship, in conclusion, sentenced Lamoud to fourteen years' transportation; and Smith, after a suitable admonition, was dismissed from the bar.

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICIARY.

July 20.

At the sitting of the Court to-day, the Lord Justice Clerk stated he had received a letter from a student of law, complaining that he had been refused admittance to the Court-room, which was a hindrance to his professional studies. His Lordship observed, the Court could make no order in the case; students of law had no peculiar privileges; the members of Court must first be accommodated. And, after them, so long as there was free space, the room was open to the gratuitous admission of any of the lieges.

Robert Hamilton, Samuel McMenemy, and Alexander McPhie, were then placed at the bar, accused of the robbery and murder of Benjamin Lamont, a soldier in the 78th regiment of foot, in a park near Camlachie, on the 24th of February last. They each pleaded Not Guilty.

Mr C. Macdougald, for the panels, stated, in defence, as a fact they undertook to prove, that they were not on the spot, but at a distance, at the time the crimes libelled were committed.

The depositions of the deceased were now read. They stated that about three months previously he had gone on a furlough from Cork to Aberdeen, and was on his return, by way of Edinburgh, the previous day. When he got to the west end of Parkhead, three young men came up to him, of whom he inquired the nearest road to Duke Street, which they undertook to show him. When they got to Camlachie, they took him down a lane between hedges, then through a field; and when they got to the bottom of a declivity at

the far side of that field, he was knocked down and robbed of £5 he had got from his father, a bundle, and some small articles; and, on his endeavouring to get up, one of them discharged a pistol through his thigh.

The following witnesses were then examined:—

Dorothea Ferguson or Lamont, wife of James Lamont, Easter Cairnie. She is the mother of the deceased; he was at her house last spring upon furlough; his age was twenty-six. Witness gave him, the day he went away, £5 in bank notes, but does not know of what bank they were.

Thomas Hamilton, weaver in Main-Street of Parkhead, knew the panels, particularly McMenemy and McPhie; saw them in Parkhead about seven o'clock in the evening of the above day; paid no attention to their dress, but they wore short coats; that worn by McMenemy was blue, McPhie's black; Hamilton, he thinks, wore a blue coat. There were several shots fired at a wedding. Saw Hamilton there having a pistol, and fire it on the street; this was when he first saw them. A little after this he saw Hamilton charging the pistol, as he thought, with powder and chucky stones. Knows the house of James Gray, publican in the centre of Parkhead. Saw a foot soldier come out of that house about ten minutes before nine o'clock at night; he had feathers in his bonnet and tartan trowsers, a knapsack on his back, and a bundle in his hand. He went westward towards Glasgow. Saw the prisoners at that time opposite James Gray's door; they went westward, the soldier being before them a few yards. They were not then speaking to him, but to each other. Saw panels join the soldier about the west end of the village; after that they walked on together, and witness walked on also. It struck him at the time that some harm was going to befall the soldier. Knows a house called Ilad-

dow's Corner, at Camlachie; at that place they all turned to the right off the public road. Witness went up to a house farther up, where by a different route he got on to the place where the party was going. They went down towards a park on the right hand side of the Glasgow road. Witness went after them very slowly, but kept them in sight. It had been raining, but was not then, and no moonlight. Heard M'Phie, when they were in the park, exclaim, "B—— of hell!" but he did not know what it meant. They still went on, and on going down a brae towards a burn, they got out of his sight. He then heard the report of a pistol fired. After the shot, witness heard repeated cries of murder from the same place.

Cross-examined—His reason for dreading some harm to the soldier was, that panels had been often blamed for things of that kind before.

George Hamilton, weaver, Parkhead, remembers of a soldier being shot near Camlachie, in February last. Had been in Glasgow that day, and returned to Parkhead about nine in the evening. He met a soldier about the west end of Parkhead, on the north side of the road towards Glasgow. Cannot speak as to his dress. No one was with him; but saw the panels, M'Menemy and M'Phie, following him; also a third man, whom he did not know; they were two or three yards from him. When in bed, he was told that a soldier had been shot and robbed that night. His brother, when he passed him on the road, said something to him, but what it was does not recollect.

Hamilton Cross, lately weaver in Camlachie, now private soldier—Was in Camlachie in February last. Heard of a soldier being killed. He met a soldier on the pavement, going towards Glasgow. The three panels were with him; M'Phie was in rear of him; M'Menemy was on the right, and Hamilton on the left. Had known them be-

fore. They walked as they discoursed, both going in the same direction, till the soldier and panels turned down a road to the right, when witness observed to M'Phie that was a funny way to go to Duke Street. Witness went off the road by Haddow's Corner, towards Chalmers' Close, which is near Vinegar Hill; this might occupy a minute. He sat down in the house for some time, when he heard the report of a pistol from the eastward, or north side of the Glasgow road; it came from the direction of Camlachie burn, which runs in a park behind Chalmers' house. Went out, on hearing the shot, and heard the cries of murder; he ran to where the cries came from, through the field, which was ploughed, and went along the ridge of the brae, before he descended to the burn. Three persons ran past him towards Haddow's Corner; they were like the three men whom he had seen with the soldier, but did not recognise them as the same, though he thought they were. He went down (the ground being ploughed, as he thought) to where a soldier was lying, but cannot say he was the same whom he had met with the panels.

Evidence of a similar tendency was given by other witnesses.

William Lyon, surgeon in Parkhead, remembers a soldier being brought in wounded, to the house of a man named Haddow in Camlachie. There were two wounds in his left thigh, one in the inside, the other in the outside; the bone was fractured, and small pieces of bone were issuing from one of the wounds.

Francis Neilson, surgeon, Glasgow, was sent by the Sheriff to visit the deceased. Read a report of his case, made up by him at the time, which bore that it was a very dangerous one. After he died, witness inspected his body, and made out a report, which he now read. It bore that the wounds in his thigh were the cause of his death, and that among the muscles was found a quan-

tity of delft and tile. In witness's opinion the wounds must have been made by a circular substance, which passed through and through.

The prisoners' declarations were then read. Hamilton stated that he was a soldier in the 79th regiment, from which he deserted at Campbeltown, and was in Glasgow about the time that a soldier was wounded. He denied being accessory to the crime.

M'Menemey stated that he was a weaver, and resided in Parkhead on the night the soldier was shot, but was not out of his own house that evening. He denied all accession to, or knowledge of, the crime.

M'Phie said, he was a weaver by trade, but had latterly been employed in a coal pit as a shanker. That on the night the soldier was wounded he had gone to bed early; but was awake by a dragoon, who was on furlough, with whom he went out for a little, after ten o'clock, to get a dram.

EXCULPATORY EVIDENCE.

John Scott knows the panels M'Menemey and M'Phie. Remembers the evening of the day in February, on which a soldier was shot. Witness was at M'Menemey's house that evening. Went there about seven o'clock, and found M'Menemey at home. There was nobody else there but his wife and children. Remained there nearly two hours. While witness was in M'Menemey's he heard M'Phie singing. Knew it to be M'Phie's voice. Mrs M'Menemey said, "Hear our Sandy singing." When witness left the house, M'Menemey came to the door, and bade him good night. He had at that time his coat, hat, and shoes off, and appeared to be going to bed.

Janet Black or Crosbie, wife of Robert Crosbie, Parkhead, knows M'Menemey and M'Phie. Remembers Scott going away, a few minutes before nine o'clock. Heard M'Menemey and him go out together, and take good night.

Heard M'Menemey return and shut his door. There could no person, not the smallest child, pass up or down, without witness hearing them. Heard a man's foot on the stair afterwards. The man knocked at Samuel M'Menemey's door; knew it was a man's voice and tramp. It was a heavy tramp. The person asked for Sandy M'Phie, and Mrs M'Menemey showed him the door. Mrs M'Menemey barred her door again, and witness heard her and her husband speaking together. Heard the person rap at M'Phie's door. M'Phie's mother answered, and said he was in, but in bed; and asked the person to come in. He stopt a considerable time, and he and M'Phie went out together. M'Phie stopt out about a quarter of an hour.

By the Crown—Is quite sure it was on the evening in which she afterwards heard of a soldier being wounded, that all this happened. M'Phie locked the outer door that night just before eleven o'clock.

Robert Hamilton, father of the panel of that name, heard of his son's desertion; went for him to M'Nair's mother's on the 24th; it was not then rung six o'clock. He took his son home with him to King's Street, Calton; he had him there before seven o'clock; he is sure he did not go out again that night, nor till near six o'clock next morning; is as sure as the sun is in the firmament. He wished to conceal his son, knowing him to be a deserter. He slept beside his own bed on a shake-down.

The Lord Advocate then addressed the Jury. He contended that the evidence in proof of an *alibi*, with the exception of the near relations of the panels, was quite inconclusive.

Mr M'Dougall (with whom was Mr Dunbar) said, that the *corpus delicti* had been proved, there could be no doubt. But the case was one of circumstantial evidence, and it was necessary in all such cases that the chain of evidence should be complete—that not

a link should be wanting. He then went over the proof in exculpation, contending that they had made out a complete case of *alibi* for all the prisoners; and on the whole view of the evidence, he asked of the Jury their full and free acquittal.

The Lord Justice Clerk then proceeded to sum up the evidence, which he went through with great minuteness. In conclusion his Lordship observed that the Jury would have to consider which was entitled to belief—the witnesses for the prosecution, or those for the panels. His Lordship began his charge at a quarter before ten, and concluded at half past twelve o'clock.

The Jury then retired, and returned into Court, at a quarter past one, with a verdict finding the indictment Not Proven.

The Lord Justice Clerk, in dismissing the Jury, said he was not surprised that there should have been a difference of opinion among them in this case. His Lordship then addressed the panels, and said they had made the narrowest of all possible escapes. With regard to the verdict, he would only say that they were fortunate men; and trusted that their future conduct might be such as that it should never be found necessary again to place them at the bar on such a charge.

The prisoners are all good-looking young men, but not seemingly of spotless character; as it appears from their declarations, that their intimacy had commenced when prisoners in Glasgow jail. They maintained the greatest composure throughout the trial.

LANCASTER ASSIZES.

RIOTS AND DESTRUCTION OF MACHINERY AT BLACKBURN.—On Monday, the 14th August, James Riding, William Sutcliffe, Richard Kay, James Latham, James Ormerod James Haworth, and Thomas Bolton, were

indicted for, “that they, on the 24th of April, with force and arms, in the parish of Blackburn, did feloniously, by day, break into a certain building, namely, a cotton mill, belonging to Bannister Eccles, with intent to break and destroy the machinery therein, and did actually destroy it.” The jury found the first six named individuals Guilty, and the other Not Guilty.

THE WAKEFIELDS.—On Saturday, the grand jury returned true bills against Edward Gibbon Wakefield and William Wakefield, for a misdemeanour. Also a true bill against Edward Gibbon Wakefield, William Wakefield, Edward Thevenot, and Francis Wakefield, for a conspiracy. The bill against Edward Wakefield, the father, was declared to be ignored.

On Monday, Edward Gibbon Wakefield was placed at the bar; he is a good-looking man, of middle stature, with a not very intellectual or amiable countenance; he was handsomely dressed; his age is forty.

The clerk of the Court then read to Edward Gibbon Wakefield and William Wakefield the indictment against them for a misdemeanour, in the abduction of Ellen Turner, on the 7th of March, from the care of the Misses Daulby, she being of the age of only fifteen years, without the consent of her father, and against her own will, and falsely and wickedly representing to her that her father was in danger of being arrested for debt, but that if she should immediately consent to marry the said Edward Gibbon Wakefield, her father would be released from all danger of imprisonment and ruin, and that the marriage actually took place. Mr Coltman then entered into an argument to show that Edward Gibbon Wakefield was entitled to delay pleading to this indictment, and to traverse to the next assizes.

Mr Williams and Mr Brougham, for the prosecution, urged that, though

Edward Gibbon Wakefield had been committed for the felony, and was now proceeded against only for the misdemeanour, yet the facts were the same, and therefore, he would not be taken by surprise if called on to take his trial immediately.

The judge gave it as his opinion that Edward Gibbon Wakefield had a right to traverse till the next assizes, though he must plead immediately; but he gave his opinion most strongly that William Wakefield, who had been originally charged only with the misdemeanour, and had been out on bail more than 20 days, must take his trial at the present assizes.

William Wakefield was now called upon to plead to the first indictment against him, and he pleaded Not Guilty. He was then arraigned on the second charge of conspiring to carry away Ellen Turner, to which he also pleaded Not Guilty.

Frances Wakefield, the mother, was then called upon to plead to the second indictment of conspiracy, and she pleaded Not Guilty. Her husband, Edward Wakefield, was bound in recognizances of £2000 for her appearance at the next assizes, and her father, the Rev. D. Davies of Macclesfield, and her brother-in-law, Mr Daniel Wakefield, the Chancery barrister, became sureties for her to the amount of £1000 each.

Edward G. Wakefield then pleaded Not Guilty to both indictments, and he was allowed to traverse to the next assizes, giving bail, himself to the amount of £2500, and Dr Davies, and Mr Daniel Wakefield, to the amount of £1250 each. He was also required, by the same recognizances, to keep the peace towards the said William Turner, Esq. and his family, and the judge said it would be a most heinous aggravation of his already enormous crime, if he broke the peace again towards that family. His Lordship then adjourned the Court.

A motion was brought forward on Wednesday morning to postpone the trial of Mr Wakefield until next assizes; and, after lengthened pleadings, Mr Justice Park refused the motion. Upon being asked by the Attorney-General to name a time for the trial to come on, his Lordship said he could not tell when, but he might by possibility commence it on Thursday. Then a serious case of murder (the McKeands) would be taken on Friday, and perhaps it might be Saturday before Wakefield's case closed.

Friday, the trial of Alexander McKeand, aged 35, and Michael McKeand, aged 24, for the murder of Elizabeth Bates, at Winton, near Manchester, took place. The prisoners pleaded Not Guilty. The witnesses examined were, Mrs Martha Blears, the landlady of the public house where the murder was committed; Mr Joseph Blears, her husband; Wm. Higgins, the boy who lived with the two last witnesses, and whose escape from the murderous grasp of Alexander McKeand was so providential; Mary Andrews, the next neighbour to Mr and Mrs Blears; Mr William Brittan, the constable of Barton (who produced several articles of dress, marked with blood, and a knife likewise all bloody); Simon Williamson, a servant man, living in the neighbourhood of Winton, Mr Edward Foulkes, attorney; Mr W. Hancock (the individual who lodged with the McKeands at the time of the dreadful occurrence); Mr Richard Farrady (the person who apprehended the prisoners); Mr Garside, the surgeon; and Mrs Sarah Stewart. The Jury found the prisoners both Guilty. The awful sentence of the law was then pronounced upon the wretched men.

The trial of William Wakefield, which has been looked for with such extreme interest, and which was to have come on, on Monday last, has gone off in a manner wholly unexpected.

ed, owing to the flight of the defendant.

At half past nine Mr Justice Park entered the Court. The only counsel for the prosecution in attendance was Mr Brougham, who rose and intimated to his Lordship that he should wish William Wakefield to be called on his recognizances.

The Judge having given orders accordingly, the Clerk of the Court made the following proclamation three times :—" William Wakefield, come forth ; save you and your bail, or you will forfeit your recognizances." The Judge then ordered his Serents to be called in like manner, and the Clerk of the Court proclaimed accordingly—" David Davis, of Macclesfield, in the county of Chester, Doctor in Divinity, bring forth the body of William Wakefield, whom you undertook to have here to-day, or you will forfeit your recognizances." The same proclamation was made with regard to the other surety, John Cuthbert, of Stonehouse, near Broadstairs, in the parish of St Peter's, Isle of Thanet, in the county of Kent, Esq.

The Judge.—Is there any reason to suppose that William Wakefield is not here ? May he not have been prevented by the circumstances of this morning from attending punctually ?

Mr Dennison, the attorney for the defendant, said, " My Lord, he will not be forthcoming."

The Judge.—Let the recognizances be estreated.

Mr Brougham.—Not only those of his bail, but his own recognizances.

The Judge.—Certainly.

Mr Brougham then applied for his Lordship's warrant to apprehend the defendant.

The Judge.—I will issue my warrant, but you are aware that it only extends to this county. You must apply to a Judge of the Court of King's Bench, if you want one to extend all

over the kingdom. I shall grant the warrant certainly, but it will be in the usual form, viz. that he should be brought before me, if I should still be remaining here, or otherwise before any of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace. The question is, whether I have the power of inserting a clause in the warrant, that notice of bail shall be given if he is taken. He will be entitled to be bailed, and he may afterwards forfeit another recognizance. It appears to me that to limit the jurisdiction of the Justices of the Peace would be to infringe it. I was asking Mr Hopkins (the clerk of the Court) if there ever was an instance of such a limitation, and he says there is not. One of my clerks, who was formerly with a Judge of the King's Bench, tells me that he has often made out warrants in that Court, with a clause that there should be forty-eight hours' notice of bail, but those were warrants to bring the defendants before one of the Judges of the King's Bench. Mr Hopkins remembers a case from Liverpool where notice of bail was required.

Mr Brougham.—No doubt he will be entitled, when taken, to be bailed, as this is only a misdemeanour ; but I apprehend he must give notice of bail. That, however, may probably be left to the discretion of the Magistrate.

The Judge.—Certainly ; it will be safer to make out the warrant in the common form.

The warrant was then made out accordingly.

During this conversation, none of the defendant's Counsel were in Court, neither were any of the Wakefield family.

The amount of the recognizances forfeited by the non-appearance of William Wakefield is four thousand pounds. It was thus apportioned : Wakefield's own recognizance was £2,000 ; Mr Cuthbert was bail for £1,500, and Mr Davies for £500.

SENTENCE ON THE RIOTERS WHO
DESTROYED THE POWER-LOOM.—

When the affair of the Wakefields had been thus prematurely brought to a close, the Judge gave orders that the convicted rioters should be brought up for judgment. Forty-two persons were placed at the bar, when an impressive address was delivered by the Learned Judge, in the course of which he intimated to them his intention of recom-

mending to his Majesty not to carry the sentence he was about to pass into full effect, but that he would be pleased to pardon them so far as their lives are concerned. Sentence of death was then recorded against them (35 men and 7 women) ; and four others, three women and one man, found guilty of the minor offence, were sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment in the House of Correction at Preston.

No. III.

GENERAL CHRONICLE;

OR,

RECORD OF MISCELLANEOUS OCCURRENCES.

JANUARY.

LONDON.—COBBETT.—Sir Thomas Beever, Bart. has addressed the public, through the medium of the papers, recommending a meeting, to be held on the 25th inst. for the purpose of adopting some measures for getting Mr Cobbett into Parliament. Sir Thomas says he has had no connexion with Mr Cobbett; but “I have been a constant reader of his writings; I have been deeply interested in the momentous question which he has been, for so long a time, labouring to make clear to the people, and on the final decision of which question, I am convinced, must depend this other question, namely, whether my estate shall be quietly enjoyed by me and my heirs; whether it shall be tossed up and scrambled for in a wild revolution; or whether it shall be coolly confiscated, and transferred

to those who receive the taxes, to whom I, even now, feel that I am little better than a steward, while I have the name and the outward appearance of a land-owner.”

In consequence of the above address, Cobbett, in his Register, addressed the public as follows:—

“I have to state to the public, that I am, as for several years I have been, very desirous to be in the House of Commons; that I am, as I was in 1820, convinced that I could, if there, do much greater good to my country than I can do out of Parliament; that I am convinced, that I could point out the means of effectually rescuing the country from its present great difficulties, and its still greater dangers; that I am, as I long have been, thoroughly convinced, that unless suitable remedies be adopted, and that too before it be long, there must come a convulsion, of which no man can foresee the extent or the conse-

quences ; that no man wishes more anxiously than I do to see such a lamentable catastrophe prevented ; and that, therefore, I am not only ready, but desirous, and even anxious, to be placed in the House of Commons ; but that, on no account, will I expend, for the accomplishment of that purpose, any portion of those earnings, which, whether great or small, all belong to my wife and children. The world has never beheld a triumph more complete and more honourable than that which time and events have now awarded to me. The triumph of Mordecai over Haman was not greater than is mine over this fraudulent and pauper-creating system. It is like the triumph of the Sun over the Frogs ; all eyes behold it ; it would be proclaimed by every tongue ; but, every man knows that every other man must know it as well as he. Still I am anxious to make my country triumph too ; but, at the same time, it becomes not me to disguise, that I should be proud of the honours that would be conferred upon me ; that I am by no means blind to the certain advantages which a seat in the House of Commons would give me, and give, moreover, to those who are, and who, on every account, ought to be, as dear to me as is my own life, and, indeed, to whose affectionate and dutiful conduct, not to omit adding, to whose talents also, I am, in no small degree, indebted for this triumph. I am by no means blind to those advantages ; I am not hypocrite enough to affect not to see them ; nor am I mean enough to assume the mock humility of pretending, that they are greater than I merit at the hands of my country. Those who now want any argument to convince them of my ability to render my country the greatest of all possible services would not be convinced ' though one were to rise from the

dead ;' and as to those who affect to believe, (for not one of them really believes it,) that I should make use of my power for what they call ' revolutionary purposes,' the best answer to their corrupt and perverse insinuations is, that it is because to preserve my fame it must be my anxious wish to put a stop to the fatal progress of that hideous revolution which is now actually begun. I am well aware that it is no easy task to effect an object like this. This object has not for so many years occupied my thoughts, without my duly measuring its magnitude, and also the means of its accomplishment. For the last seven years no small part of every twenty-four hours, whether on sea or on land, on my pillow, in my garden, on my horse, or on my feet, has been spent in thinking of the means necessary, when the danger should become clear to all eyes, to the rescuing of England from the natural and inevitable consequences of this all-corrupting, all-enfeebling, all-degrading curse of paper money."

SHILOH.—There is at this time a meeting held, consisting of between three and four hundred of those infatuated people professing to be the followers of Johanna Southcote. The subject of faith held forth at their last meeting was, " The coming of the promised Shiloh ! " One of the enthusiasts who mounted the rostrum on the present occasion, declared, with the most profound sanctity, to his credulous hearers, " that this was the appointed time of the birth of Shiloh, as verified to him by a glorious vision ! " He further asserted, that " he was confirmed in his belief in consequence of his having laid his hand on Johanna Southcote when she lay dead—that he felt the blessed Shiloh kick ! " &c. There is a trumpeter amongst this motley group, who, at

intervals, sounds what appears to be a silver trumpet; (in form like that of the trombone;) after making three distinct sounds, the congregation simultaneously rise, and vociferate aloud—"Shiloh! Shiloh! Shiloh!" This was repeated several times. The place where these poor fanatics meet, is a large room, which lies at the back of the Greyhound Inn, West Smithfield, (formerly used as a dancing room,) the entrance to which is through a long passage by the side of a cutler's shop, a few doors from Cow-lane, leading to Long-lane.—There is a pair of folding doors with glass in the centre of them, at the entrance from the street.

EDINBURGH.—THE MAGISTRATES v. THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.—The Magistrates have at length brought an action of declarator against the Professors of the University. We have seen a copy of the summons, which states that the object of the action is, to have it found and declared by the Court of Session, that "the sole and exclusive right of prescribing rules, and making statutes for the *studies*—and the course of studies for obtaining degrees—belongs to the Magistrates: That the Professors, *independently* of the Magistrates, do not possess the power of enacting regulations for the discipline of the College, or regulations to be observed for obtaining degrees: That the Professors have no power, as a distinct body, to frame any bye-laws applicable to the general concerns of the College, which can be imperative on the Magistrates, as Patrons: That no such rules made, or to be made, by the Professors, can be of any force or effect: And that the Professors be ordained to desist from interfering or acting in these matters in time to come," &c. The summons is dated 28th December last, and narrates, at great length, the grants, charters,

and acts, in favour of the Magistrates, and their proceedings respecting the College, from the time of Queen Mary downwards.

M. DAVID.—The *Brussels Oracle* of the 30th of December, announces the death of this celebrated artist:—"The celebrated painter David expired yesterday morning, at a quarter past ten. His family is going to embalm his body. They intended to apply to the French government for leave to have his remains deposited in his own country, to the glory of which he has so greatly contributed."

DEMERARA PAPERS.—Demerara papers were received on Saturday to a late date. The *Royal Gazette* of the 22d October contains a most important ordonnance for the religious instruction of the slaves, and the future improvement of their condition. The first fiscal of the colony is confirmed, as protector of the slaves, with a salary of fourteen thousand guilders per annum, one-half to be paid out of the Government, and the other half out of the colonial chest. The duties of this officer are set forth in the ordonnance; and it is ordered, that no planter, or other person, possessing slaves, shall employ such slaves, at work, during the intermediate time from sunset on Saturday and sunrise on Monday, under a fine of 600 guilders. This exemption from labour does not, however, allow the slaves to quit the estate, without permission of the owner.—Exceptions are also made for local circumstances, such as preserving or tending cattle, repairing breaches in dams, or arising from other casualties, and all labours absolutely necessary for the preservation of the crops. Packing the coffee, or cotton, when it would sustain damage from delay, is also excepted; but for this service the slave is to receive wages, the rate of which is to be fixed by the protec-

tor of slaves. The ordonnance also states it to be in contemplation to abolish the usage of holding markets on Sundays, and until this can be entirely effected, it is ordered, from the 1st January 1826, that the Sunday markets shall be limited to the hour of eleven in the forenoon, and that disobedience shall be attended with forfeiture. After the above date, it is also declared illegal for any person to carry a whip, or other instrument of punishment, in the field or elsewhere, either as a badge of authority, or a stimulus to labour; and the violation of this order renders the parties offending liable to a fine of six hundred guilders, or to imprisonment of from one to six months. It is further ordered that, if a male slave renders himself amenable to punishment, "such punishment must be inflicted with reason and without cruelty or passion," and is not to exceed twenty-five lashes, nor to be inflicted until after sunrise of the next day, nor without the presence of one person of free condition, or of six slaves as witnesses. And further, after the above date, it is declared illegal to flog any female slave under a penalty of fourteen hundred guilders; the punishments allotted for female slaves are, solitary confinement, field stocks, house stocks, bed stocks, hand cuffs, distinguishing dresses, distinguishing marks, and confinement generally; and in particular cases the tread-mill. A punishment record book is to be kept at each estate, and this is to be inspected by the assistant protector every half-year. It is to be lawful for any clergyman of the established church, or licensed teacher, to solemnise a marriage between any slaves, upon receiving the permission, in writing, of the owners of the same. Any female slave thus wedded, having a child, is entitled, six weeks after its birth, to twelve guilders from

her owner, and fifteen guilders for every other child born under the same circumstances; and after she shall thus have six children living, she is not to be employed in the field or in any other than light work.—Every proprietor is to see that the slaves are properly supplied with food, and provision grounds are to be prepared on each estate, at the rate of one acre to five negroes, independent of the weekly allowance as customary. The hours for field-work for slaves is not to exceed from six in the morning till six in the evening, allowing two hours for meals. No slave, dying suddenly, is to be buried without examination; nor is it lawful to sell a male or female married slave without the husband and wife going together; and their children, if under 16 years of age, are to be included. Slaves are allowed to purchase and hold property, and Savings Banks are to be established in the colony, for the purpose of affording them channels of investment, and the slaves are allowed to bequeath such property at their death to whomsoever they please. The evidence of slaves is also to be received in a court of justice. Any person twice convicted of cruelty to slaves, incurs double fines or imprisonment, and should further be declared incapable of managing slaves, and his estate to be placed in the hands of two or more curators, to be managed for him.

DREADFUL HURRICANE AT GIBRALTAR.—A hurricane commenced on the 6th, at a quarter before eleven at night, and lasted till three A.M. The vessels driven on shore amount to upwards of two hundred, large and small, besides a great many craft, that sunk at their moorings, having been run foul of. The lives lost could not be ascertained up to the 8th of December. The day previously seven dead bodies were found on the beach,

and a few more in the evening. The larger class of vessels lost are chiefly Americans, Sardinians, and Gibraltar vessels, very few English, a Moorish schooner of war, and the Colombian privateer General Soublotte. The scene witnessed was most appalling; vessels and crafts torn to pieces; poor wretches covering the neutral ground with their effects saved from the wrecks of these vessels; dead bodies lying on the beach in great numbers, and the Spanish troops committing cold-blooded murders on the unfortunate and defenceless crew of the Colombian privateer, who by swimming from the vessel were endeavouring to reach the English lines, and in the act of so doing were fired upon in the water by about 50 Spanish soldiers, and 15 officers of revenue. Some of them were saved by the English officers, who, at the risk of their lives, went in a boat on board the wreck, and were fired at by the dastardly Spaniards. About 70 remained on board until the evening, when they delivered themselves up to their cruel persecutors, on condition that they should be considered as Colombians, and their lives saved, which was agreed to, and guaranteed by the Spanish Consul at Gibraltar.

At Cadiz, during the same hurricane, the loss has been trivial; an American ship and a schooner, a Spanish ship and two brigs, a small Dutch vessel, and small craft.

PARIS, Jan. 6.—Mademoiselle Delphine Gay, who has already sent to the Greek Committee the sum of 3000 francs, has since transmitted the additional sum of 400 francs, the produce of the sale at Munich of those touching verses with which she was inspired, by the misfortunes and heroism of the Greeks who found their grave in the cradle of liberty, civilization, and the arts. The committee

has commissioned its President to make its acknowledgments to her.

IRELAND.—DISTRESS IN ARRAN.—We are concerned to be obliged again to revert to the lamentable condition in which the unfortunate people of Arran are placed. They are indeed hastening to the very extreme of misery, and many of them must have recourse to the high-way for subsistence, or quietly render up their lives. The potatoe-crop has completely failed with them, and such as have the means are obliged to have recourse to the county of Clare and the adjoining coast for food. Even at this early period the inevitable consequences of their distress are beginning to manifest themselves, and a system of plunder is already acted upon by a population which has been ever proverbial for the strictest honesty. In the village of Killenny, the most distressed part of the island, the poor people are constrained to steal potatoes by night, to support their famishing little children, and some hundreds of them saw the sun go down on Christmas-day without having once tasted food. These melancholy instances are but too true; and if the executive government will but send a proper person into the island to ascertain the existence of them, it will be found that we have not by any means exaggerated. Of this the public may be certain, that unless a prompt and vigorous exertion shall be made to relieve them, they must seek for subsistence in Galway, and in all probability generate such another epidemic as that with which we were afflicted in 1822.

THE RUSSIAN MILITARY COLONIES.—ST PETERSBURG.—The Official Report respecting the military colonies is now published, and is extremely remarkable in its kind. Its author is Count Arakschejeff, the

governor of these colonies. It appears from this report, that the advantages which were proposed in the establishment of those colonies have not been obtained. It was calculated that they would increase within themselves sufficiently to render any other mode of recruiting unnecessary. But the mortality among the sons of the soldiers has been so great, in comparison with the births, that Count Arakschejeff was obliged, in order to complete the regiments, to take soldiers' children from the crown villages, or from villages belonging to other proprietors. But where would children be found if the whole army were colonised and the conscription abolished?

We see farther, from the report, that of the 15,061 males, and 12,670 females composing the northern district, only 4751 have not become a burden to the government. Consequently the government has had to provide for 23,251, instead of for 6000, which was the utmost number provided for. Thus about six-seventh parts of these military colonists do not support and maintain themselves, as it was expected they would do. On the contrary, the government must find support and provisions for the colonised battalions, as well as for those on service, and at the same time provide for the other indigent individuals, of whom there is a constantly increasing number in these settlements. It may therefore be assumed that if of the 600 battalions of the Russian army 200 were settled, the remaining part would cost much more than all the 600 would have cost. To this must be added the expenses of the first establishment, and the loss in the annual revenue. It is said that every colonised regiment costs the state five millions of rubles annually; this would make for 200 regiments the enormous sum of 1000

millions of rubles. But if we take only the half, the sum will still be very large. If the plan were to be executed to its fullest extent, the colonization would include three millions of individuals. Each of these pays the government a poll tax, which on an average may be estimated at eight rubles at the least. There would, therefore, be an annual loss of 24 millions of rubles, not to mention the diminished amount of the brandy distilleries, and many other branches of revenue, as this colonization reduces the peasants to poverty. Such great sacrifices were certainly not contemplated when this idea was suggested to the late Emperor. Indeed, other powers have conceived much too formidable an idea of this system. It has, besides, produced effects equally important and melancholy, with respect to the dispositions of the people; it has excited great discontent both among the nobility and the peasants. The former suffered in their revenue; the latter were disturbed in their economy. The farmers distill and sell brandy. In this we must seek the first cause of a discontent, for which the late Emperor himself was not in any respect to blame.

21st. — INVERNESS. — Eight men from the Revenue Cutter *Atalanta*, now on this station, were dispatched last week, in consequence of informations lodged with them, to scour the country in the neighbourhood of Beaully. Saturday morning last they proceeded in scattered parties by Kilmorack, through the glens, and made several seizures of wash, malt, spirits, and distilling utensils, to a very considerable extent. At length, two of them, Mackintyre and Mackinnon, came upon a small still-house, situated in the hill, nearly two miles above the Miln of Aigas, where a number of country people were assembled. Sc-

veral rumours are abroad of the transactions which took place at this spot, and it is hard to tell to which of them the greatest credit can be attached. But, however vague and contradictory these reports may be, they cannot affect the truth of the termination of an affray which immediately ensued among the smugglers and the two men belonging to the cutter, and in which the miller of Aigas fell by a pistol-shot. Medical aid was called as speedily as possible, but the ball having passed through the unhappy man's body, and lodged in the back, any assistance that could be afforded him, could avail nothing. He lingered from one o'clock on Saturday forenoon till four o'clock on Sunday morning, when he died. On returning to the cutter, Mackintyre, the sailor who had been instrumental in the death of the smuggler, delivered himself up to the judicial authorities, and he is now in custody, to await the issue of the trial, which will necessarily follow this lamentable occurrence.

23d.—PAISLEY.—A meeting of the bankers, manufacturers, and other inhabitants of Paisley, was held in the Court Hall, for the purpose of taking measures for supplying the unemployed operative classes with the means of subsistence, Provost Farquharson in the chair, who opened the meeting by stating that a requisition, respectably signed, had been presented, requesting the magistrates to call the present meeting.

William Carlisle, Esq., in a speech of considerable length, was rather inclined to think that the present meeting had no data to walk by—no returns of unemployed to enable the meeting to judge of the extent of the distress which the operative classes were, under the dispensation of Providence, labouring under. He thought it strange that a number of young

men, in the vigour of life, could not support themselves for a week or two without the assistance of the opulent part of the community. No doubt, great distress existed, and that many families were in very indigent circumstances, but he thought it belonged to the manufacturers to come forward and do something for their unemployed hands.

Provost Farquharson said, that it was the manufacturers who had requested the meeting, and mentioned that a statement had been handed in to him which furnished some information as to the distress, which he would read to the meeting.

Statement of the distress already ascertained by the committee of operatives appointed for that purpose:— Weavers unemployed 1002, of whom have been unemployed 12 weeks and upwards, 46; 10 weeks, 27; 9 do. 6; 8 do. 40; 7 do. 24; 6 do. 73; 5 do. 68; 4 do. 120; 3 do. 80; empty looms, 230; total empty looms, 1232. In 1819, when the distress was at the greatest, there were about 1100 empty looms.

Mr W. Brown rose, and stated, from what he knew, that the distress was great and very urgent. He stated a case or two, which so overpowered his feelings that he was obliged to sit down.

The Rev. R. Burns, in an eloquent and impressive speech, urged the propriety of doing something to alleviate the distress. He concluded by moving, that a committee be appointed to procure subscriptions.

The Rev. J. Thomson, in a neat speech, seconded the motion.

On the motion of the Rev. Mr Burns, it was agreed to open a subscription on the spot; but when some of the wealthiest were requested to come forward and head the subscription list with something handsome,

they declined doing so till once the manufacturers would come forward and subscribe for the relief of their workmen.

Provost Farquharson vindicated the manufacturers from the aspersion that had been thrown out against them; and again stated that it was the manufacturers who had requested the meeting, and said that he could boldly state that the manufacturers were actually ruined.

The meeting was thinly attended, and dispersed, after appointing a committee to procure subscriptions.

Another point divided the meeting, whether a subscription should be opened immediately, or a committee of inquiry be appointed. This last measure was adopted, and will, it is supposed, be of great use, both in determining the extent and severity of distress, and thereby showing the need of an extensive and liberal subscription, and also in regulating the proper distribution of such a subscription when raised.

The iron works of Mr Dixon, at Cernay (Haut Rhin) continue to prosper in a striking manner, the number of workmen employed being now upwards of 600, ten of whom are Englishmen. Within the last twelve months Mr D. has added the branch of making steam-engines. As a proof of the high estimation in which his machines are held, six extensive new cotton mills in Alsace, besides several others in different parts of France, are at present fitting up with them. Mr D. is now in possession of mines, from which he makes the whole produce into pig iron, for the use of his extensive foundries.

During the course of the last week, the petitions for the repeal of the corn laws and the abolition of slavery have lain at the Town Hall, Nottingham, for signatures. The former has been signed by about 14,000 in Not-

tingham, and 5000 in the villages, making a total of 19,000; the latter has been signed by about 5600.

23d.—LONDON.—BOARD OF TRADE AND THE SPITALFIELDS WEAVERS.—On Wednesday, Messrs Home-wood, Poyton, Wallis, Harris, and others, forming the deputation appointed to present to the Board of Trade the petition agreed to at the meeting held last week, of the inhabitants of the parish of St Matthew, Bethnal Green, had an audience of the Board, which lasted upwards of two hours.

The members of the Board present on this occasion, were, Mr Robinson, Chantellor of the Exchequer, Mr Huskisson, and Mr Grant.

The petition, which prayed that “the honourable Board would devise some means to avert the distress that has overtaken the numerous persons engaged in the silk trade,” in consequence of the repeal of the prohibitory system, having been read, the deputation requested to know what answer they should return to their constituents.

Mr Huskisson, in reply, stated at some length the reasons by which he felt compelled to adhere to the determination of throwing the trade open under the protecting duty of 30 per cent, provided by the late act of repeal. He admitted that the existing distress in the silk trade (which he sincerely lamented) was, in a considerable measure, owing to the expected importation of foreign silks; but thought that it was to be ascribed in a still greater degree to the excessive speculations in which the silk manufacturers had recently indulged. He felt quite assured, that the introduction of a free system would ultimately be attended with the greatest benefit, not only to the country at large, but more particularly to the silk weavers themselves. He was by

no means, however, so wedded to his opinions as not to renounce them willingly, if they could be proved to be erroneous; and he could assure the deputation, that, if they would only convince him of the propriety of retracing his steps, no false notion of consistency should prevent him from being the first to go before Parliament, and move for the continuance of the prohibitory system. In the meantime, he was sorry to say, that with the views he had on the subject, he could not give the deputation any hope that government would interfere in the matter of their petition. The distress which the silk weavers experienced was but a temporary evil that must be borne. Neither were they the only distressed class in the community; many other classes, the cotton spinners in particular, being in a state of nearly equal suffering, in consequence of the generally depressed condition of manufactures and commerce at the present moment.

When Mr Huskisson had concluded, Mr Homewood, Mr Poyton, and Mr Wallis severally addressed the Board in support of their petition. Having urged particularly the advantages which the foreign silk weaver has over the English one, in consequence of food and everything else being so much cheaper, and taxes so much lighter abroad,

The Chancellor of the Exchequer remarked that the deputation, as well as other people, were very much mistaken on these points; for that the French workmen have heavy taxes to pay as well as ours have, and find it nearly as hard a task to live upon their earnings as ours do; but if bread is cheaper in France than in England, wages are proportionally less; and house rent is almost as high there as it is at home.

The deputation confessed, that on

all these points they entertained, in common with the public, very different notions—that they were at a loss to conceive how the French workman could be at all oppressed by taxes like the English workman, when in France there was but little national debt to pay the interest of, and in England we have a national debt that requires a taxation of nearly forty millions annually; and that, as regards both the prices of provisions and house rent in France, even considered in relation to the French rates of wages, they were sure it could be easily demonstrated that the foreign workman had eminently the advantage.

Mr Homewood added, significantly, that it might not be out of place to hint, that besides having little or no national debt, the French had no corn laws.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer smiled, but took no other notice of the allusion.

Mr Huskisson and Mr Grant were equally silent in respect to it; indeed, during the whole interview, the question of the corn laws, though so intimately connected with that of free trade, seemed to be carefully avoided. With the exception of the notice taken of them by Mr Homewood, they were never once mentioned.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr Huskisson joined in replying, that they had not overlooked any of the considerations brought forward by the deputation; that they had given the whole matter the fullest consideration, and viewed the operation of the new law in every possible shape; and that, after all they had heard, their opinions remained unchanged.

Mr Homewood.—What answer, then, if you please, gentlemen, shall we take back to our constituents? Are we to understand that govern-

ment can afford us no hope of relief?

Mr Huskisson.—You will please just to report faithfully what has now passed between yourselves and the Board.

FEBRUARY.

3d.—LONDON.—MEETING OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND ON FRIDAY.—The Governor rose, and said that the Court of Directors had convened the Proprietary for the purpose of communicating to them a long correspondence, which they had lately held with his Majesty's Government upon subjects of the greatest importance connected with their affairs.—The first paper, enclosed by the Earl of Liverpool and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, contained, when divested of official technicality, in substance, the following observations, as comprising the views of the Ministers:—

“ They had, they said, paused, until the late panic had subsided, and until the pecuniary affairs of the country were once more running from their wholesome and accustomed sources, and flowing through their wonted channels. That the only remedy which the Government could satisfactorily suggest with a view of preventing the return of a similar evil, would be found in their taking all the steps in their power to recur to a gold circulation for the country, as well as the metropolis and its neighbourhood, and by an immediate measure for the restriction of the re-issue of small paper currency, and the suppression of what was afloat within a time to be provided—say, within two or three years definitively; enlarging, at the same time, upon the evils which had sowed from a contrary practice.

“ Though the recurrence to the gold circulation already effected had

been, for the reasons stated, productive of much good, yet it was by no means to be inferred, that to the paper circulation was to be attributed the real evil. This the ministers thought capable of demonstration from a recurrence to the past history of the convulsions in the money market. In the year 1793, a revolution had taken place far greater than that which had lately occurred. Nearly 100 country banks had then stopped payment, and a great issue of Exchequer bills was made; there were then no one or two-pound notes in circulation; and they had this farther proof in support of their opinion, derivable from the experience of the state of Scotland, which was saved for a long course of years from the convulsions to which England had been occasionally liable, although their (the Scots) pecuniary transactions were entirely conducted through the medium of bank-notes, and in a great degree of the smaller denominations. Still, though the paper circulation was not in itself the real evil, yet there could be no doubt that the present system of the country banks had a local operation, which sufficiently showed where their management of business was of a solid, and where it was of the contrary character, where in fact it was safe, or detrimental to the interests of the public, or of individuals.

“ The Government were entirely prepared to do ample justice to the manner in which the Bank of England had conducted its affairs, and they were likewise most ready to admit the general wisdom, the fairness, and justice, which governed its management. But the great and unexampled progress of the commercial affairs of this country within the last thirty years had entirely altered the relative condition and capabilities of the Bank for general purposes; so

much so, that it was now no reflection upon that corporation to say, that, however adequate they had been to do exclusively the business of the state before, they were not in the same degree so competent in the present growth of public affairs for such a purpose. Indeed, this was proved from the single fact of the great increase of country banks. Formerly the great business of the public was conducted through the medium of cash and notes directly transmitted from London; but the improved practical mode of conducting money matters on a system of pecuniary credit, made the former plan no longer either useful or practicable; and hence the country banks rose and extended, to supply the new arrangements. The cause of regret in the present consideration was not so much the existence of country banks, but that they had so long existed without its being deemed necessary to place any legislative control over their improvidence and excess. If it were desirable, which the Government thought not, they had it not now in their power to extinguish them; but they still might compel them to abide upon a fair, just, and sound system, the advantages of which would be so felt when once brought into operation, that the unsafe and dangerous portion of the existing establishments would soon be found to be absorbed in those which became better regulated.

"It appeared that there were two modes of attaining the desirable end proposed by the Government. One was for the Bank of England to distribute branch establishments throughout the country; the other, for that corporation to surrender a part of its unexpired exclusive privileges. With reference to the former, it had always appeared to the Government desirable for the Bank to have established branches on a limited scale. They

were, however, now quite satisfied that the Bank could not carry into effect this extension of their system in so easy a manner as was at first apprehended. There remained, therefore, only the other proposition to be considered,—namely, the propriety of opening bank partnerships beyond the terms now stipulated by law, and at certain distances from the metropolis. The event would be, as the experience of Scotland proved, the gradual establishment of solvent banking firms throughout the country upon a sound system. It was said there were now 800 or 900 country banks throughout England, and of them it was no exaggeration to say, that by far the greater number were certainly not conducted upon a safe and proper foundation, and that their vicissitudes occasioned a considerable shock to public credit generally, and inflicted a number of evils.

"They had already referred to the banking system of Scotland, where, though there were only thirty banks, yet they had withstood for a series of years all the shocks which the establishments for banking had, in England, during the same time, so often suffered under—a fact in itself sufficiently demonstrating the better system of their foundation. The partners were prohibited from embarking in extraneous speculations, and other salutary arrangements were provided for them by law. Let the Bank of England, then, only reflect upon the increased security which their own corporation would derive from the prevalence of a sound system, which was calculated to save the country from the shocks which in their result affected all property generally."

The Bank Directors first demanded as a compensation for the concessions asked, that their charter should be continued for some years longer. But this ground was ultimately aban-

done, and the proposal of Ministers complied with. As to the scheme of establishing branch banks, the Governor said that the subject had been discussed by the Directors; and though of course in all its details subject to future consideration, yet that the principles of their establishment had been favourably received.

There was another meeting of the Directors of the Bank on the 4th, which terminated by a resolution to render assistance to the extent of from L.200,000 to L.300,000, to one or two mercantile houses, to relieve them from present embarrassments. One of them is said to be engaged in the India trade.

6th—EDINBURGH.—MEETING OF NEW TOWN PROPRIETORS.—On Monday a highly respectable meeting of Proprietors in the New Town, was held in the great room in the Waterloo Hotel, pursuant to a requisition in the different newspapers, in consequence of the filling up of the valley to the east of the Mound, which had created serious alarm in the minds of the requisitionists that there existed a design to erect buildings along the south side of Prince's Street. Sir James Ferguson of Kilkerran, Bart. was unanimously called to the Chair.

The requisition calling the meeting was read, as also the correspondence between certain inhabitants of the city and the Lord Provost on the subject under review.

Mr Home Drummond submitted the following resolutions; the first of which he moved, and was seconded by Sir W. Forbes:—

1st, That one of the most striking aspects of Edinburgh is that which is exhibited of the Old Town from the eastern division of Prince's Street, and the filling up of the valley, or the erection of buildings between the Old and New Town, would be destructive

of the beauty of this quarter of the city.

2d, That the rapid accumulation of earth now going on in the bottom of the valley threatens to produce the worst effects on the picturesque appearance of Edinburgh; and that this and other circumstances justify a strong suspicion that there is a design to erect buildings between Prince's Street and the Old Town, to the eastward of the Mound.

3d, That a committee be appointed to confer with the Lord Provost and Magistrates on this subject, and to remonstrate, in the strongest manner, against the depositing any more earth in the valley, or the erection of buildings between Prince's Street and the Old Town; with power to call another meeting of the proprietors of the New Town, if necessary; and to report their opinion as to the best mode of carrying the objects of the meeting into effect.

Mr W. Inglis moved, as an amendment, that the meeting adjourn, which Deacon Purves seconded; but the motion was negatived, and the first resolution carried by acclamation, as were the remaining two in succession.

Mr Home Drummond said, before the Committee was named, he would move that its number be restricted, as it was often a fault that Committees were too numerous, and as the number seven had been named, he moved that such number should be nominated, which was agreed to, and the following gentlemen were appointed:—

Sir William Forbes, Bart.

Sir Henry Jardine.

Henry Cockburn, Esq.

James Skene, Esq.

James Moncreiff, Esq.

Alexander Douglas, Esq. and

Professor Graham.

Sir William Forbes to be Convener.

Mr Jeffrey then proposed a resolu-

tion for the final adoption of the meeting:—

That the gentlemen who signed the requisition to the Lord Provost, not having succeeded in obtaining a satisfactory explanation of what is intended as to the ground on the south side of Prince's Street, it was highly proper and expedient to call this public meeting, and that they are entitled to the thanks of this meeting accordingly, for their exertions in a matter so interesting to the inhabitants of this metropolis; which, being seconded, was also carried.

Thanks being voted to the Chairman, the meeting separated.

8th.—LONDON.—COBBETT.—A meeting was held this morning at the Freemason's Tavern, for the purpose of considering the best means of returning Mr Cobbett to Parliament. At one o'clock the avenues to the tavern were so thronged, that an adjournment was proposed by Colonel Johnson to Lincoln's Inn Square, in the west corner of which, after some delay, a waggon was placed, which was occupied by the principal speakers. Sir Thomas Beever, after some little time, addressed the meeting. The Honourable Baronet began by saying, that he owed everything himself to Mr Cobbett; till he had read whose writings he was quite a poor man, but now both he and his family had become independent, in consequence of following his maxims. He felt the obligation strongly, and would go on to his last shilling towards securing Mr Cobbett's return to Parliament. The worthy baronet was followed by Colonel Johnson, who, after eulogizing the principles and abilities of Mr Cobbett, to whom he said he should be happy to resign his own seat in the House this very evening, ended by reading a string of resolutions, the effect of which was, that a subscription should be raised forthwith, to

further the object which the meeting had in view.

A deputation of gentlemen connected with the silk trade, waited, by appointment, upon Lord Liverpool, at Fife House, where they met his Lordship, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the President and Vice-President of the Board of Trade, and Mr Herries, the Secretary of the Treasury, for the purpose of receiving an answer to certain reports which they had delivered respecting the state of the silk manufacture of the country, as compared with that of the Continent. Messrs Gibson, Hale, James, Bell, Ballance, Morse, Woollam, &c. attended. After an interview of more than two hours, during which the various topics connected with these reports were fully and amply discussed, with various degrees of success, as far as regards the present admission or postponement of foreign manufactured silks, the deputation received the unqualified answer of Lord Liverpool and his colleagues, that they saw no reason whatever for recommending to Parliament the postponement of the introduction of foreign wrought silks beyond the 5th of July next.

The Duke of Wellington set off this day, on a mission to congratulate the Russian Emperor, Nicholas, in name of his Britannic Majesty, upon the accession of the former to the Imperial Throne.

Five negroes, taken from a French ship which was driven into St Ives by stress of weather lately, were brought up to London, and carried before Lord Chief Justice Best. No person could be found who understood their language, and, on this account, their story was got very imperfectly. It was collected, however, that the ship they were found in was a slave-trader, which had carried out 244 slaves, and transhipped them all into another vessel, except these five. No person ap-

peared for the captain, and it is uncertain what plea he would set up. From want of evidence as to their condition, the Chief Justice did not decide how they were to be disposed of. It is certain that they will be liberated. The only doubt is, whether proofs will be obtained to convict the ship-master of being a slave-trader, and liable to be punished for piracy.

13th—EDINBURGH.—OPENING OF THE BUILDINGS OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION.—This day the Directors, with the artists, and a number of amateurs and gentlemen belonging to the city, dined in the New Hall. The Earl of Elgin was in the chair, supported by the Lord Provost and the Earl of Leven, and Sir William Arbuthnot and Sir Henry Jardine officiated as croupiers. Among the company were the Earls of Minto and Fife, Lords Gillies, Meadowbank, Eldin, and Medwyn, Sir Philip Durham, Mr M'Donald of Glengary, Sir Archibald Campbell, Mr Henry M'Kenzie, Mr J. A. Murray, Professor Russell, Dr Hope, Mr Stuart of Dunearn, Baron Eichthal, the French Consul, &c. After the routine toasts were disposed of, the Chairman gave, "The Institution for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts in Scotland;" and, in a speech of some length, explained its object, and the advantages which it was expected to produce to the country. His lordship next gave, "The Board of Trustees," by whose assistance, he said, they had been enabled to erect the splendid buildings they had now assembled in, and who had done so much to promote the success of the arts in Scotland. Sir William Arbuthnot, in a reply, bore testimony to the zeal of the Trustees, and observed, that some of the living artists, whose talents did honour to Scotland, had been connected with the Acade-

my under their charge; he named Wilkie and Wilson.

GLASGOW.—The deplorable consequences of the late over-issue of bank-notes are daily displaying themselves. We noticed in our last the failures this week in Paisley. We are sorry to add, that there have since occurred stoppages to a considerable amount in Glasgow. Every description of hand-weaving is getting gradually worse. Harnesses, in particular, appear to be going 'down altogether. The number of empty looms is rapidly increasing. The weavers, particularly those who reside in the vicinity of coal-pits and public works, are beginning to exercise a proper spirit, and push themselves into other employments. The shopkeepers, fleshers, and spirit-dealers, continue remarkably slack; and it was a general remark, that so thin a town, and so few people buying as on last Saturday, had not been seen for a long time. Several hundreds of journeymen tailors are idle, and there are few orders executing. The cabinet-makers are also feeling the want of a ready sale of their articles. In the suburbs, it is in vain to attempt to collect imposts of any kind; the mass of the working population are in great poverty—they have neither money nor adequate employment, many are totally idle, and there is in general no resource but pawning articles of furniture, if there are any still undisposed of, to be redeemed if their circumstances improve. Loom-shops are found shut or partially occupied, and many of the dwelling-houses are absolutely dismantled to provide the necessaries of life. There is scarcely anything tangible to seize upon, a stool, a pot, and a miserable bed often comprising the inventory of furniture. Stage-coaches are getting only about half the number of passengers they

used to have at this time of the year.

20th.—EDINBURGH.—MERCHANT COMPANY.—This day an extremely numerous meeting of this most respectable body was held in their Hall, Hunter's Square, James Spittal, Esq. in the chair.—Mr Spittal briefly stated the object for which they had been brought together on so short a notice. Great distrust and much calamity had been engendered, in consequence of the failure of a number of banking establishments in England, and his Majesty's Ministers had been induced to apply a remedy to the evil, while they were also taking measures to prevent a recurrence of a similar calamity. In the course of the discussion which had taken place, the banking establishments of Scotland have been referred to, with triumph; and it appeared to him to be an anomaly, that while, with one hand, these establishments were held up as perfect models, they should be by the other cast to the ground, and trodden under foot. His Majesty's Ministers were the most enlightened men that for a long period had directed the councils of this country; and he was quite convinced, that, if the general voice of Scotland be given, as he was certain it would be, in favour of the existing practice, they will yet pause before they destroy that system which had hitherto given universal satisfaction. He trusted the sentiments of the meeting would be unanimous; and that every county, city, burgh, and public body, in Scotland, would meet, and express their sentiments freely on this most important subject. He would not take up more of the time of the meeting, as resolutions had been prepared, and would be submitted to the meeting.

The resolutions were then read by the clerk, and unanimously adopted. They deprecated alteration in a sys-

tem which has hitherto worked so well, to the perfect security of the public, and admiration of his Majesty's Government; noticing particularly the check kept by each bank over the issue of notes by another, in the mutual exchanges which take place twice a-week, when all deficiencies are paid in cash, or by short bills on London.

Mr A. Sievwright thought that a recommendation should be given to induce persons in all quarters of the country to prepare and send to Parliament similar petitions.

The Lord Provost seconded that suggestion, as he understood that such a course of procedure would be the most effectual means of ascertaining the sense of the country upon this most important subject.

Mr A. Scott considered that the resolutions which had been read were so complete that a recommendation to the effect proposed was unnecessary.

Mr Alex. Henderson (old Lord Provost) was of opinion that every Scotch Member of Parliament should be requested to oppose the measure contemplated by Government. It would be of little use to present petitions, unless these were vigorously supported.

Mr Thomas Blackwood moved the thanks of the meeting to the Master and Assistants, for having called the Company together with so much promptitude.

22d.—LONDON.—L. A. GOLDSCHMIDT.—The failure of the eminent house of Messrs B. A. Goldschmidt and Co. has brought on another calamity in the death of Mr L. A. Goldschmidt, the principal partner, whose spirits had for some time past been deeply affected through that event, and who sank under the misfortune on Saturday evening. His medical attendants were Dr Latham, and Mr Andrews, of St Helen's

Place, who pronounced the immediate cause of his death to be apoplexy, but those who had closer means of observation declare the real cause to be a broken heart. After filling for so long a period a very high rank in the commercial world, he could not summon fortitude enough to bear up against the loss of reputation. He was attacked with indisposition, and took to his bed on the day when the house suspended payments, and rose from it no more. Had he possessed greater self-command on the trying occasion, the blow might, it is supposed, have been averted; but his difficulties were not revealed until it was too late to tender assistance. Mr Goldschmidt was 49 years of age.

22d.—COUNTY OF EDINBURGH MEETING.—On Wednesday, a very numerous meeting of the freeholders, &c. of this county took place in the Court-room of the county buildings, to consider of a petition to Parliament against the projected plan of Ministers to extend the suppression of bank-notes under L.5 to Scotland.

Sir John Hope, Convener of the county, being called to the chair, stated the object for which the meeting had been convened.

Sir John Dalrymple craved the indulgence of the meeting, while he should submit certain resolutions for their approbation. This was not a party question; for he was convinced that his Majesty's Government were only anxious to promote what they considered the public good. The Scots system of banking, and the benefits derived from cash accounts, had been approved of by Dr Adam Smith, and its usefulness to the community generally had been proved by long experience. It had existed in Scotland for more than 100 years. By means of its banking system, this country had prospered in an extraordinary

degree. It had risen from a state of poverty and indigence to one of wealth and importance; and while the system in England had been convulsed from one end of the country to the other, that of Scotland had remained unshaken and secure. And having thus stood the test of so long experience, he trusted Ministers would hesitate before they sought to alter the state of a currency which had afforded such security, or apply to this country remedies which were only wanting in England. The circulation of L.1 notes in this country had the support of public opinion—the greatest confidence was reposed in them—and there could be no danger in their continuance. It was not unnatural for Englishmen to wish an assimilation of the system in the two countries; but this could only arise from ignorance of the peculiar circumstances of the Scottish system; and the best way to convince Parliament of this, and to show the public feeling on the subject, was by encouraging meetings in large towns and districts throughout the country, to petition against the proposed change. He concluded by reading a series of resolutions, on which he proposed to ground a petition to both Houses of Parliament.

Mr Borthwick of Crookston seconded the resolutions. All the recent evil had, in his opinion, originated in rash speculations, and was no way caused by the issue of small notes. He entered at some length into a view of the comparative merits of a metallic and paper currency, and declared his preference of the latter, where its credit was secured by a convertibility into the former at the pleasure of the holder.

Mr Michael Linning considered paper currency as highly favourable not only to the trade and prosperity, but to the morals, of the country; as

a bank-note was not near so tempting to the thief or the avaricious person, as the more glittering article gold. Indeed he knew that in many parts people preferred paper to gold, as more secure. It was no uncommon thing to see a countryman refuse a sovereign, and request a bank-note in preference.

Mr Gibson Craig said there could not be one dissentient voice with regard to the management of banking business in this country. Allow it to remain as it was, and the country would continue in prosperity. Disturb or alter it, and ruin must follow. The system of cash accounts was peculiar to the Scots Banks, and had done more for the prosperity of the country,—it had done more in bringing forward young men into life and business, and advancing them in prosperity, than anything ever did or could do. He spoke for himself, and he believed most of them could speak from experience, of the benefits which had been derived from this system in every department of the trade, manufactures, or agriculture of the country. If the Banks were not allowed to circulate their small notes, they must discontinue the granting of cash-accounts; and he would ask them to look at the consequences which must follow the striking off these by the banks. There were sufficient checks against the over-issues of bank-notes—there was the check of foreign exchanges, applicable alike to Scotland as to England—besides the general exchanges of notes by the Banks, which take place in Edinburgh twice a-week, and where any balance is paid over in gold. It was only the other day that Mr Maberly's house here had collected L.30,000 of Edinburgh bank-notes, and presented them for payment, when gold was tendered in exchange. He said this was not what he wanted, but bills on London;

but he was told that the promise on the face of their notes was to pay gold, which they would pay, and nothing else. It was held by Mr Ricardo, and by every political economist, that the safest currency was paper convertible into gold; and it was only within these few months that they had ever heard an opposite opinion. Were they then to give up the experience of a century for the theory of a few months? Since the first establishment of banking in Scotland, there had been only a few instances of failure, and these of obscure banks, where the loss had been very trifling; and he would ask, was this enough to throw discredit on the whole system? One Bank had some years ago given up business, which had by a system of villainy been robbed of about L.160,000, but the country sustained no loss. Every engagement of that bank was made good by the proprietors. The Fife Bank, too, had recently ceased to do business. Their want of success was caused by mere carelessness in not asking payment of their debts. But in this case, also, as they all knew, nothing was lost to the country. So far, then, from these cases making against the system, they were proofs that there was no risk in it. The system of banking in this country had stood long, and ought to be supported; and if they were true to themselves they must support it. Ministers, he believed, wished to serve the country, and in this measure only acted upon erroneous impressions. It was therefore their duty to put them right.

Mr Mowbray, W. S. said, in Scotland, a man was considered to have no property until his debts were paid; but this was not the case in England. There, a banker might possess thousands in landed property; and when he dies, it is not liable for his debts. English notes were therefore not so

good as Scots notes, because in this country, every farthing that a man possessed was liable for their payment. The resolutions were then carried unanimously, and a petition, founded on them, having been read and approved of, was signed by the gentlemen present.

CHURCH PATRONAGES OF DALRY AND CARSPHAIRN.—The first of these patronages, in which the incumbent was stated to be 88 years of age, sold lately for L.2500; and the second, which is only a vice-patronage, and where the incumbent is only a young man, for L.1050. The successful competitors were the trustees of Mr Forbes of Callendar. The Society for Improving Church Patronage offered L.2450 for Dalry, and L.1000 for the vice-patronage of Carsphairn.

HARROW SCHOOL.—The town of Harrow has lately been thrown into the utmost state of consternation, owing to the sudden disappearance and unforeseen defalcation of Mr Mark Drury, the second master of the school, and who has been above forty years in the Harrow establishment; and also of his son, Mr John Drury, another master of the school, both of whom quitted the town by night, leaving enormous debts behind them; but they have since been arrested, and are both at present in prison. Their debts, in the town and neighbourhood of Harrow, are estimated at upwards of L.40,000, and the tradespeople of the town are almost to an individual more or less sufferers, and many entirely ruined; there have been executions in several of the tradespeople's houses; the losses to some individuals are said to be immense—one butcher alone, L.2700; a linen-draper, L.7000, a great part of which was money lent.

MARCH.

3d.—LONDON.—SUICIDE OF M. B. LOUSADA, ESQ.—Moses Benjamin

Lousada, Esq. of Finsbury Square, a gentleman well known and highly respected as a member of the Stock Exchange, put a period to his existence, having been for several days previously in a state of distraction, caused by disappointment, chiefly of a domestic nature. During the last fortnight it was observed by his friends that he laboured under an extraordinary depression of spirits, which was attributed to some losses which he sustained, in common with other respectable Stockbrokers, by the recent failures. His eldest daughter eloped about a fortnight ago with one of his clerks, a circumstance which appeared, it is said, nearly to drive him frantic.

In the Hamburgh papers we find a minute and not uninteresting account of the honours paid to his Grace the Duke of Wellington at Berlin, and of the various gaieties which awaited him in that capital. Of these not the least were the interviews with several veteran friends, whom he had formerly met under very different circumstances, amid the tumult and dangers of battle. The Duke did not fail to visit the widow of the brave Blucher.

SILK TRADE.—The silk-weavers in Spitalfields are likely soon to be placed in a better situation than they have been for some time past. A very heavy duty for raw silk has just been paid, and now the masters find the Government are firm in their determination to adhere to their plan respecting the importation of French silk, they have begun to put their hands on again. Several new silklooms, on the French model, we understand, are nearly completed at Stamford. They have been for some time fitting up by a French workman for Mr Gouger.

Some of the principal managers of the great Scotch Banks, viz. of the Royal Bank of Scotland, of the Com-

mercial Bank, and the British Linen Company, are arrived in town for the purpose of protesting against the measure for withdrawing the small notes from circulation in Scotland, and have had interviews with Ministers on the subject.

5th.—The deputation from Glasgow were in close conference this afternoon with the Bank Directors, on the subject of the amount and mode of relief to be applied to Glasgow. I have their authority for stating, that the conduct of the Directors has been throughout most liberal, and that the immediate arrangement with them is highly satisfactory; and the Bank have stated their willingness to advance from L.300,000 to L.400,000 for the use of Glasgow, upon goods or unexceptionable personal security. The mode of advance, as far as I can collect it, (for on this point there is some reserve,) will be upon certificate of value of the goods, or solvency of the parties. It is not believed that L.400,000 will be really wanted in Glasgow.

The Manchester deputation have had the same reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the Bank Directors, but I understand, that in consequence of the personal interference of Mr Lloyd, the eminent banker, a large sum has already been sent down to Manchester by the Bank of England. Mr Wood of Manchester, who has been very prominent in negotiating for the interests of that town with Government and the Bank, left Radley's hotel, Blackfriars, yesterday evening, to return home. To use his own words, "everything had been arranged in the most satisfactory manner." Of the Liverpool Deputation I know nothing. Mr Lister Ellis returned two or three days ago, but from what that gentleman stated when here, I have no doubt that Liverpool will receive all the relief it is in want of.

Copy of an oath taken by his Majesty's subjects at St Petersburg, on the occasion of the accession of his Imperial Majesty Nicholas the First:—"We, the undersigned subjects of his Britannic Majesty, and other members of the British Church, make oath and swear, upon the Holy Evangelists, that we will be true, faithful, and submissive to his Imperial Majesty the most gracious and great sovereign the Emperor Nicholas Paulovitch, autocrat of all the Russias, and to his son, Alexander Nicholavitch, successor to his Imperial Majesty's throne, or who may be appointed, and that we will guard and preserve the rights and privileges belonging to his power and right which have been decreed, or may be decreed hereafter, to the best of our understanding, power, and ability; and likewise, that we will endeavour, as much as possible, to forward all that may relate to the real service of his Imperial Majesty, and the just interests of the empire in the two realms. So help us God and the Holy Word, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

20th.—EDINBURGH.—SUICIDE OF WILLIAM POLLOCK.—A most extraordinary circumstance took place in the jail of this city, this morning. Pollock, the man who was under sentence of death for the murder of his wife, and who was to have suffered the last punishment of the law to-day, strangled himself in his cell with a portion of his own shirt. At eight o'clock, the upper turnkey visited Pollock, and cleaned his cell. The prisoner then said he felt more easy, and in better spirits. When breakfast was taken to him, about half past nine, he was found dead, but not quite cold. He had torn out the back of his shirt, and a strip from the side of a blanket, and these he twisted into the form of a small rope, and fastened to the cross-bar of a table—a piece

of wood about 15 inches long, and three-quarters of an inch thick—which he had laid across the ventilator of his cell, a small circle of 18 inches diameter, formed in the wall which separates the apartment from the passage. The height of this ventilator is only 6 feet 4, or thereabouts, from the floor of the cell. But between it and the floor is the bed—a thick oak plank—on which the unhappy man lay—and likewise the gaud or iron bar to which he was fastened. He had adjusted his bed-clothes, however, so as to entangle his feet, and prevent them reaching the ground, when he threw himself off. He had also drawn a rug between the gaud and the ring of his fetters, to prevent noise. Indeed, the whole circumstances evinced a degree of determination and deliberation that is surprising. Pollock left three letters, and a scrap of paper containing an inventory of his effects, in the jail; these he wished to be given to his son. The letters were all of nearly the same tenor; in them he admits the guilt of suicide, but states that he could not endure the thought of suffering on the scaffold for a crime he “could not bring his mind to believe he was guilty of.” To Mr Young, the governor, he writes,—“Excuse this rash act; when you consider all, you will see there is good intentions, though not towards myself.” Pollock has throughout the whole course of his confinement, conducted himself very quietly; but always denied the murder, and appeared rather irritated when taxed with it. He has been attended by the Rev. Dr Lee since his condemnation.

SCOTTISH CURRENCY.—The following members compose the Select Committee appointed “to inquire into the state of the circulation in promissory notes under the value of L 5 in Scotland and Ireland, and to

report their observations and opinion thereupon to the House, with reference to the expediency of making any alteration in the laws now in force relating thereto:”—Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Secretary Peel, Mr Tierney, Mr John Smith, the Lord Advocate of Scotland, Sir John Newport, Mr Sturges Bourne, Mr John Dennison, Mr Archibald Campbell, Mr Huskisson, Sir George Hill, Lord Archibald Hamilton, Lord Francis Leveson Gower, Sir Henry Parnell, Lord Viscount Althorp, Mr Calcraft, Mr Abercromby, Mr Ellis, (of Dublin,) Sir Matthew Ridley, Mr George Dawson, Sir George Clerk, Mr Grenfell, Mr William Dundas, Mr Brougham, Lord Viscount Palmerston, Mr William Gordon:—Power to send for persons, papers, and records; five to be the quorum. The list has been incorrectly given in some Edinburgh papers.

At the close of the sitting of the High Court of Justiciary, this day, the following observations upon Bridewell were made by the Judges:

THE LORD JUSTICE CLERK.—I have now prepared the deliverance on the subject of Bridewell, to which I formerly alluded. I, however, must take this opportunity to state, that the step is taken from a thorough conviction of the necessity of an alteration in the economy of Bridewell, but with no intention to throw the slightest reflection on any of the constituted authorities of this city; for I am perfectly sensible of the anxiety of the Lord Provost and Magistrates of the city, as well as that of the Sheriff of the county, to discharge the duty imposed upon them with the strictest fidelity. But while I call their attention to the state of the Bridewell of this city, I am bound to state, that they, in my opinion, have done everything in their power, considering their inadequate means, to render the state

of that establishment as perfect as possible. I beg distinctly to say, that the Court, in adopting the present course, is not doing anything against the credit of those honourable persons, as the Court is only following the same course which has been adopted by your Lordships on the different circuits. We all consider it as a part of our duty to examine the state of the Jails and Bridewells, and it is equally our duty to attend to that of this city. [His Lordship then read a deliverance recommending an alteration in the internal structure and management of Bridewell, which is to be communicated to the Lord Provost and Sheriff.] His Lordship continued :—It is from a conviction of the necessity of the case that I have been induced to prepare this deliverance. The Court does not take upon itself to direct the ways and means by which these much to be desired measures are to be carried into effect, nor have I the smallest intention to interfere with the powers of the Bridewell Commissioners—nor with the city, on the one hand, or the county on the other ; yet I have no difficulty in saying, that an opportunity is now afforded for procuring a Bridewell that will be fully adequate to all purposes. In my opinion, the present Bridewell ought to be converted into a debtors' jail. A portion of it might be set apart as an auxiliary to the present jail—for, notwithstanding the great expense at which it was erected, from the great increase of crime, it has been found to be too confined. I should wish a Bridewell to be constructed on proper principles, as it is but too evident that the construction of the present one is founded on fundamental error ; as it affords the prisoners not only the opportunity of seeing and speaking together, but of instructing and encouraging each other in the most effectual modes of committing crime.

Were the present Bridewell converted into a debtors' jail, which is confessedly much wanted, and upon the area reserved for the debtors' jail a Bridewell built, ample means would be afforded to have a building erected upon the best and most approved principles. In the erection of such a building, it would be well to attend to the plan adopted in the enlarged Bridewell of Glasgow, which is what it ought to be—a place for the reformation and amendment of criminals, rather than what this Bridewell had become—a place for the encouragement of crime. By an anonymous pamphlet, which was put into my hands last night, I am glad to learn, that since the new Bridewell of Glasgow has been erected, an evident decrease of crime has taken place in that city, which, I trust, will be found to be the case by my brethren who go the circuit ; and I have no doubt, if the same means be adopted here, the same results will follow.

LORD GILLIES—I entirely concur in every word which has fallen from your Lordship. I am quite convinced that the Bridewell of this city is not well conducted. While on this subject, I may observe, that of late years the proper construction of Bridewells is a subject which has engaged much public attention. In this age, it is considered that a prison should be rather calculated to reform than degrade offenders, and I have no doubt that means such as those which your Lordship has suggested, may, and will be adopted, to carry those measures into effect. The manner in which offenders are confined in Scotland is a very important subject. By the present law, every burgh is obliged to maintain the prisoners in its own jail. The consequence is, that they, in many cases, are unable to build proper jails where the prisoners can be kept even in safe custody—much

less in a state of proper classification; and for the same reasons, those under whose charge they are, are by no means qualified for those important duties. I, therefore, think it high time to put a stop to a system which is so opposed to the wishes of every humane person.

LORD MEADOWBANK.—I entertain opinions exactly similar to those of your Lordships on this important subject. When I held another situation under the Crown, I was impressed with the necessity of some step like that alluded to by Lord Gillies, but whether from the state of the country at the time, or from local prejudices, I found it quite impossible to obtain the concurrence of those bodies upon whom the assessment would rest. It occurred to me, that when government were dismantling so many barracks, a few years ago, some of these might have been obtained for the purpose of being applied to confinement and reformation of criminals. Objections insurmountable, however, were started, and such a plan was found to be altogether impracticable. I am perfectly persuaded that there has not been one word said by either of your Lordships in which the public will not entirely concur. All must be satisfied that the present means of inflicting punishment—that is to say, combining punishment with the reformation of the offenders—is altogether inadequate. It ought to be the main object of the police of Scotland to prevent contamination in those places where criminals are detained. A young offender cannot be sent to the Bridewell of this city for the first time, without coming out of that institution much more hardened than he had gone in.

THE LORD JUSTICE CLERK explained, that although his observations more immediately applied to the Bridewell of this city, he perfectly

concurred in what had been said by Lord Gillies as to other jails in Scotland. He had frequently urged the subject when on the circuits, and particularly at Ayr, with a view to induce the county of Wigton to join when the new jail at Ayr was erected, and also at Inverness, with reference to the jails in the North.

HIS MAJESTY'S HEALTH.

“King's Lodge, March 19, 1826.

“The King has had but little sleep last night. His Majesty is much the same as yesterday. (Signed)

“HENRY HALFORD.

“MATTHEW JOHN TIERNEY.

“HENRY HERBERT SOUTHEY.”

“King's Lodge, Windsor Park,
March 20.

“The King has had a very good night. His Majesty is convalescent. (Signed) “HENRY HALFORD.”

Sir Matthew Tierney was sent for to attend the King on Wednesday, from Brighton. On Friday, Sir Matthew Tierney came to London, and reported to Mr Secretary Canning, and several others of the Cabinet Ministers, the state of the King. Sir Henry Halford remained with the King on Sunday till about one o'clock, when he left the Royal Lodge, and proceeded post to London, and arrived at his residence in Curzon Street, May fair; he shortly after proceeded in his town-carriage to the Earl of Liverpool's house, in Whitehall, to report the state of the King yesterday, and afterwards proceeded to the house of Mr Secretary Canning to make a similar report.

We understand that the illness of the King was an inflammation of the abdominal region, and that there is no truth in the report of his having been afflicted with dropsy. This state-

ment must be gratifying, as it shows that the illness had not a chronic character.

DEATH OF THE KING OF PORTUGAL.—A telegraphic dispatch received this evening, announces the death of the King of Portugal. On the 4th inst. his Majesty was attacked with an apoplectic fit, together with epilepsy. On the 5th and 6th his malady increased to such a degree as to create the greatest alarm for his life. After the crisis of the 6th, his Majesty experienced no new attack till the 9th, when his malady returned with augmented violence, to which the King yielded, and laid down his life on the 10th, at six in the evening. At the departure of the courier, the Princess Isabella Maria, eldest daughter of the King, acted as Regent. Lisbon was quite tranquil. We are enabled to state that the legation of his Majesty, the King of Portugal, has not dispatched a courier to the Infant Don Miguel, who is at Vienna, to announce the illness of the King, his father, as a Journal of this day asserts. John IV. King of Portugal, Emperor of Brazil, was born May 13th, 1767. From 1792 he governed in the character of Regent, in the name of the Queen, his mother, who was affected with mental alienation. He succeeded her in 1817, and was crowned at Rio Janeiro, to which place he had retired on the invasion of Portugal by Bonaparte, who, in the hope of seizing his person, lost no time in proclaiming that the House of Braganza had ceased to reign. John VI., while still but Prince of Brazil, married, in 1790, the Infanta Charlotte Joachima, daughter of King Charles IV. of Spain. The Infanta Isabella Maria, who now acts as Regent, is the fourth daughter of John VI. She was born July 4, 1801.

THE UNIVERSITIES.—We are extremely concerned to state that Ox-

ford has been, during the last week, in a very disturbed condition. Several petty interruptions of tranquillity had occurred previously—and indeed a *tuft* or two had been rusticated from Christ Church—but on Sunday evening the serious work began, and on Monday night it was carried to its height. There has not been such a regular gown and town affair these ten years. Two young noblemen, whose pugilistic accomplishments had been exhibited in bold relief opposite to Exeter College, have been expelled from Oriel; and a variety, both of expulsions and rustications, have taken place in other quarters.

CAMBRIDGE, March 16.—10 o'clock at night.—Since I wrote this morning, I find that several persons have received severe injuries by the missiles thrown last night. Two are seriously wounded, one a gownsman, the other a carpenter. This evening the gownsmen have assembled again, and raised the cry of defiance to the town. They are now parading the market place and the other parts of the town; but they seem to have intimidated their opponents, who gather in straggling groups, but disperse at their approach. The Proctors are busily employed in following the course of the belligerents, and have induced a good many to separate from the more refractory spirits, and return to their lodgings; the main body, however, which consists of nearly one hundred gownsmen, are still in a state of obstinate resistance to both municipal and academic laws. In the High Street, a gownsman just now mounted on some railing, and addressed a speech to his fellow students, representing the folly of their conduct, and exhorting them to disperse: but his admonitions were received with jeers and hootings. There is, indeed, no compact marshalling of

forces, as there was last night. The students, who are anxious for a "row," seek it in every part of Cambridge, and raise the cry of "Gown, gown," in all quarters in succession. That the townsmen will meet the challenge does not appear at present likely; but if they should, we trust the powers of the law will not slumber with those to whom are intrusted their impartial execution.

RETURN OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP BLONDE FROM THE SANDWICH ISLANDS. — H. M. S. Blonde, commanded by Lord Byron, has arrived from the Sandwich Islands, whither she conveyed the bodies of the King and Queen of those islands, with the chiefs who had accompanied them to England. The Blonde left England in the autumn of 1824; on her arrival at Valparaiso, Mr Charleton, consul-general of the islands in the Pacific, was sent forward to Woahoo, to announce the death of the King and Queen, and the expected arrival of the Blonde with the bodies. It was regarded as a remarkable circumstance by the natives, that just previous to the period of Mr Charleton's arrival at Woahoo, certain natural phenomena—such as the extraordinary overflowing and recession of the tide, an eclipse of the moon, and so forth, had taken place, which impressed them with a belief that some fatality had happened to the king or queen; similar occurrences being observed when Tamahama the First died, the first sovereign who conquered all the seven islands, brought them under one government, and afterwards ceded them to Vancouver, in 1794. This omen, or presentiment, was confirmed by Mr Charleton's arrival. When the Blonde arrived at Honoruru (the anchorage of Woahoo) in May last, she was, however, immediately saluted by 19 guns from the fort. The day afterwards, Lord

Byron and all his officers had an audience of the Regent, (Karaimoku, the brother of Boki, the governor, who came to England,) at his house, at which were delivered, in the presence of all the heads of the nation, the presents sent out in the Blonde by our King. The present King of the islands is Kaukiauly, a lad about eleven years of age, brother of Rio Rio, who died in England. On the 23d of May, (four days after the arrival of the Blonde,) at eleven, A. M. the bodies of the King and Queen were landed, attended by Lord Byron and all the officers of the Blonde, dressed in their full uniforms. On the arrival of the boats at the landing point, they were placed on two funeral cars, and drawn by native Chiefs (about 40 to each car) to the late room of audience belonging to the Prince Regent, the tomb-house not being finished. Kaukiauly, brother of the late king, and the Princess Nahienaena, were the chief mourners, supported by Lord Byron and the British consul; the numerous chiefs of the island and the officers of the Blonde formed an extensive funeral cavalcade. The Blonde continued at the island about six weeks, during which Lord Byron attended the meetings of the chiefs, who gravely deliberated respecting the succession of the young king and princess to the throne, as heretofore might had constituted right. This important matter was, however, very amicably arranged, the heads of the nation and all the chiefs expressing their earnest desire to conform themselves strictly to the laws of legitimacy and consanguinity. This island is described as the most fertile of all the Sandwich islands. The inhabitants, by a late census, amounted to 40,000.

The Blonde proceeded from Woahoo to visit the Isle of Owhyhee, (about a three days' run,) and refit

there. She anchored in one of the finest bays in the world, (now called Byron Bay,) which Vancouver was deterred from entering by a coral rock appearing to impede the entrance, but which actually forms its principal security. It is a most safe position; and its rich and beautifully varied scenery has obtained for it the appellation of "The Eden of the Sandwich Islands." In the neighbourhood of this bay, the island is in the highest state of fertility; but the natives are in nearly the same state as they were when Captain Cook discovered them in 1779. An American missionary had arrived there about six months before, whose instructions would, no doubt, advance them in civilization, as those of his brethren had the natives at Woahoo. The Blonde then returned from Byron Bay to Woahoo, and Lord Byron took leave of the King Regent, and Chiefs, and fulfilled the purpose of his visit to the islands in the highest degree satisfactory to them, and beneficial to the country. The kindness, grace, and attentions of his lordship to the natives, we are assured, have made the most favourable impression on them of the English character. The Blonde was literally laden with stock and provisions of every description by the natives, who refused payment for anything they could supply to the ship. The Blonde left Woahoo for Karakokōoa Bay, where Captain Cook was unfortunately killed. Here Lord Byron erected a humble simple monument to the memory of the great circumnavigator—not on the spot where he was killed, as that was found impracticable, it being under water, but where his body was cut up, on the top of a hill, about a mile from the shore. The natives of the islands having embraced Christianity, the Regent gave permission

to Lord Byron to visit the sacred sepulchre, and take therefrom whatever relics of their former religion he wished to possess. The sanctuary was filled with their gods, "the work of men's hands," some manufactured of wicker-work and feathers, others carved of wood, with numerous articles which had been made sacred by being offered to them, in acts of gratitude for success in fishing, hunting, and other occupations of their simple life. But the article that most struck the visitors as remarkable, was an English consecrated drum. The temple was despoiled of most of its former sacred treasures, which are brought to England in the Blonde. The Blonde left the Sandwich Islands to proceed to Otaheite, but, in consequence of the trade winds, she could not fetch it by 500 miles, and therefore made a direct course for the coast of Chili, during which she fell in with Malden's, Husbruck's and Parry Islands, the two former uninhabited, and the latter only known to the inhabitants of Otaheite, and made a wonderful run of 4500 miles in three weeks, and 7693 miles in 49 days.

The King of the Sandwich Islands, Tamahama the First, who died in 1819, had made most considerable advances towards civilization; he had erected for the defence of his island, three forts, one of which mounts 42 pieces of ordnance; he possessed also a considerable fleet, with which he had subdued the whole group of islands, and, at the time of his death, was arranging an expedition for the conquest of Otaheite and the other Society Islands, situated at least a thousand miles from him. The simple habits and easy modes of living of the natives do not prompt to much personal exertion; they require no clothing, and their fish, which is abundant,

with the tarra-root, which grows spontaneously, afford them a gratuitous, constant, and plentiful subsistence. It has never, until now, been ascertained with certainty how they disposed of their dead. It appears, that this duty of concealment devolves upon the next of kin, who buries the body in the middle of the night following their death; and when the flesh has been consumed, they gather up the bones, which they convey into the interior, and lodge them in a cavity, or cliff of the rocks; these spots are then tabooed, or held sacred, by the erection of four poles, to go with-in which is death. The only symptoms of anger any of the natives discovered towards the Blonde's people, was when, accidentally, one of them removed a portion of one of these depositories of the remains of mortality. The bones of the royal family, in the same manner, are collected in a temple or sepulchre, and which is the only remaining building of the former religion now on the island, and which is situated in Karakoa Bay. The bow, arrow, slings, and clubs of the deceased kings and chief warriors are also deposited with their remains.

21st.—**AYR.**—A most distressing accident occurred this morning, at the coal-pit lately opened by Mr Taylor, at the Bell Rock Quarry, opposite Prestwick Toll, by which three men lost their lives, and five have been materially injured. This pit has only been wrought about three weeks. The men who first came to go down this morning, were doubtful as to their safety, and sent for William Pride, an experienced collier, in order that his opinion might be taken. Pride arrived, along with Mr Gordon, a nephew of Mr Taylor's, and who acted as a master or inspector of the works, and it was resolved to go down. John Dunlop and William Smellie went first down, Pride and Mr Gordon

next, and after them Joseph Ewing and John Rice. Two boys were standing at the pit-head waiting the return of the creel to go down, when a dreadful explosion took place, which burst the building at the pit-head, and drove the two boys to the ground, at a distance of eight or ten yards from where they stood. In about ten or fifteen minutes, a cry was heard from below, and, upon going down, Mr Gordon, Smellie, and Rice, were found in a senseless state. William Pride was able to speak, Ewing and Dunlop were dead, and Rice expired a few minutes after he was brought up. These unfortunate men have all left wives and children to bewail their loss. We are happy to state, that no fears are entertained for the recovery of the others.

23d.—**LEITH.**—**LEITH MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.**—This evening an extremely numerous and highly respectable meeting was held in the Exchange Sale Rooms, Bernard Street, Leith, for the purpose of forming a Mechanics' Institution there. On the motion of Mr Thomas Weir, Bailie Hardie was called to the chair. Mr Hardie opened the meeting by a short speech, explanatory of the object for which it had been called. After which resolutions, ten in number, were put by different gentlemen, and unanimously carried. The thanks of the meeting were voted to the Magistrates of Leith for their liberal donation of ten guineas to the institution,—to Mr Allardice, who was to print 1000 copies of the prospectus, &c. gratis—to Dr Kelly,—to Mr Hedderwick, (a mechanic,) and to the chairman, for his able conduct in the chair. The speeches delivered by the several gentlemen who moved and seconded the different resolutions, were really excellent and to the point. Two young mechanics, named Innes and Hedderwick, delivered speeches which

would have done credit to persons in a far more exalted sphere of life, and which were received with rapturous applause. Subscription papers were opened in the room, and, in the course of ten minutes, upwards L.50 were subscribed. The annual subscription of a mechanic is to be 12s., and the donation of a guinea entitles any person to attendance on the Lectures, but no part in the management. Apprentices under fourteen years are to be admitted at half price. The management of the Institution is to be in the hands of the mechanics, but, at the same time, the nomination of Extraordinary Directors is to be by the members who subscribe, which, it is thought, will make the public take a more active interest in the welfare of the Institution.

STONEHAVEN HARBOUR.—The improvement of this central harbour upon the eastern coast of Scotland, has long been contemplated as a work of much value to the district of Kincardineshire, and to the shipping of the Firths of Forth and Moray, calculated on many occasions to save the repetition of coasting voyages to a place of safety in adverse winds. The foundation-stone of this useful work was laid on the 14th inst. with masonic ceremony, by Archibald Farquharson, Esq. of Finzean, M.P. assisted by Peter Christian, Esq. chief magistrate of Stonehaven. On this happy occasion no fewer than ten lodges, in their costume, walked in procession; the Finzean lodge in uniform tartan, together with the co-operatives and friendly societies of the place, and also a great assemblage of people from the surrounding country attended to view this interesting spectacle. In the afternoon there was an ordinary at Collins' Inn, which was got up in his usual style of neatness and comfort, to upwards of sixty persons who sat down to dinner—Mr Farquharson

in the chair, and Mr Christian, croupier,—when many loyal and patriotic toasts were given, and the evening was spent with the greatest hilarity.

FORGERY IN FRANCE.—Forgery has become so alarmingly prevalent in France, in consequence of the facility which the chemical discoveries of late years have given to its commission, that the minister of justice at Paris has been induced to request the French Academy to devise some plan for the prevention of the crime. The forgers first discharge from notes or drafts everything but the stamp and the signature; then, by an easy process, restore the paper to its original consistence and colour; and afterwards insert what they please, and circulate the falsified documents. Attempts are making to counteract this evil by one of two means—either by the invention of an ink capable of resisting every chemical agent, or by adding, in the manufacture of the paper, some ingredient which the process employed by the forgers may indelibly colour.

CHANCERY.—It appears by the evidence appended to the Chancery Report, that the property now vested in securities, in the name of the Accountant-General of the Court of Chancery, amounts to upwards of *thirty-nine* millions.

AGRICULTURE.—An experiment has lately been tried on Lord Althorp's farm, at Chapel Brampton, with a view of ascertaining the relative merits of Swedish turnips and mangel wurzel. The food consumed by two oxen, which were tied up on the 26th December last, was weighed, and the increase in the weights of the oxen ascertained. In the first month, No. 1 consumed 1624 lbs. of Swedish turnips, and his weight increased 34 lbs. No. 2 consumed 1848 lbs. of mangel wurzel, and his weight increased 32 lbs. In the se-

cond month, No. 1 was fed upon mangel wurzel, and No. 2 upon Swedish turnips; No. 1 consumed 1884 lbs. of mangel wurzel, and his weight increased 32 lbs. No. 2 consumed 1880 lbs. of Swedish turnips, and his weight increased 14 lbs.

ABDUCTION.—An extraordinary case of elopement, or rather of abduction, has lately taken place at Liverpool, which has occasioned no trifling sensation in the counties of Lancaster and Chester. Miss Turner, a young lady of 16 years of age, and of more than ordinary attractions, both of purse and person, was at the beginning of this month on a visit to a lady of the name of Dalby, at Liverpool. Miss Turner is the only child of William Turner, Esq. of Wrigley-hall, High Sheriff of the county of Chester, and the possessor of property, if general report is at all to be relied on, to the amount of more than a million sterling. On Friday fortnight a carriage and four drove up to Mrs Dalby's door, and a letter addressed to Miss Turner was sent into the house, from which the young lady learned that her mother had been attacked with paralysis; that she was very desirous to see her daughter; and that, if a moment was lost, it was apprehended she would be incapable of recognising her. Of course no time was lost on the part of Miss Turner. When she saw the carriage, however, she exclaimed, "Dear me, this is not my father's carriage;" but on being assured by the gentleman inside that it was the carriage of a neighbour of her father's, and that he, though a stranger, had been commissioned to conduct her home, she did not hesitate to place herself under his protection. The postilions were ordered to drive in the direction of Mr Turner's house; and, as it has since been ascertained, they continued so to drive for about thirty miles, when they

were directed to take a northerly direction. For several days the elopement or abduction remained undiscovered. When, however, it was ascertained that Miss Turner had not returned home, some friends of the family were immediately dispatched in pursuit of her. They traced them as far as Manchester and Huddersfield; but at the latter place they lost all traces of the parties. In the meantime a letter was written to Mr and Mrs Turner, dated Carlisle, and signed "Edward Gibbon Wakefield," begging them not to make themselves unhappy, for that the writer, Mr Edward Gibbon Wakefield, had married their daughter. This statement was not believed: but the unhappy parents were of opinion that she was carried over to the Continent. Mr Wakefield is said to be the son of the author of the Statistical Account of Ireland; but neither Mr Turner nor any of his family are aware that Miss Turner had ever seen that gentleman. He is said, too, to be a widower, and much older than the lady; and, it is added, that he was married to his first wife under very peculiar circumstances. Mrs Turner is in a state of mind quite indescribable; and her medical attendants are decidedly of opinion that if she does not see her daughter in a few days, the shock which she has sustained will be fatal to her. The account of a marriage between Edward Gibbon Wakefield, Esq. and Miss Turner, has been announced in the Lancashire papers, but neither the clergyman who married them, nor the place where they were married, is mentioned. Miss Turner is said to be by far the richest heiress in the kingdom. The parties have been pursued by the lady's uncle, and overtaken at Calais, having been previously married at Gretna Green. When her uncle introduced himself to her at Calais, she declared that she

had been forced away, and that she had married Mr Wakefield under the influence of fear. Though beautiful, she is of delicate health, and appears to have suffered much from mental anguish. Mr Wakefield has two children by his former wife, who was a Ward in Chancery. She has returned to her parents.

DISTRESSING SHIPWRECK.—The following particulars of the shipwreck of the *Frances Mary*, of 398 tons, Kendal master, of and from New Brunswick, bound to Liverpool, timber laden, have been furnished by the survivors:—

“Sailed from Saint John’s, January 18.—February 1. Strong gales from the W.N.W.; carried away the main topmast and mizenmast head; hove to; got boats’ sails in the main rigging, to keep the ship to the wind. At 11 P. M. shipped a heavy sea, which washed away the cabouse, jolly-boat, and disabled five men. February 2. Cleared the wreck, and made sail before the wind; strong breezes. February 5, 11 A. M. Strong gales with a heavy sea—clewed the sails up and hove to—head to the southward; shipped a sea, which carried away the long-boat, companion, tiller, unshipped the rudder, the best bower chain, and washed a man overboard, who was afterwards saved. At 11, 10, another heavy sea struck us, which stove our stern in. Cut away our foremast, and both bower anchors, to keep the ship to the wind; employed in getting what provisions we could—by knocking the bow-port out, saved 50 lbs. of bread, and 5 lbs. of cheese, which we stowed in the maintop; got the master’s wife and female passenger up, whilst we were clearing away below, lightening the ship; most of the people slept in the top; at daylight found Patrick Cooney hanging by his legs to the catharpins, dead from fatigue—committed his body to the

deep. February 6, at 8 A. M. saw a strange sail standing towards us; made signal of distress; stranger spoke to us, and remained in company twenty-four hours, but received no assistance, the American making an excuse that the sea was running too high. Made a tent of spare canvass on the fore-castle; put the people on a short allowance of a quarter of a biscuit a-day. February 8, saw a brig to leeward; strong gales. February 9, 10 A. M. saw same vessel to windward, made the signal of distress; stranger bore up, and showed American colours. February 10, he spoke us, asking how long we had been in that situation, and what we intended to do—if we intended leaving the ship? Answered, yes; he then asked if we had any rigging? Answered, yes: night coming on, and blowing hard, saw no more of the stranger. Suffered much from hunger and thirst. On about February 11, saw a large ship to the northward. Did not speak her; bore to the northward. At this time all our provisions were out—suffered much from hunger, having received no nourishment for nine days. February 21, departed this life, James Clarke (seaman): read prayers, and committed his body to the deep. We were at this time on half a gill of water a-day, and suffered much from hunger; during the whole period of being on the wreck, we were wet from top to toe. February 22, John Wilson (seaman) died, at 10 A. M.; preserved the body of the deceased; cut him up in quarters, washed them overboard, and hung them up on pins. February 23, J. Moore died, and was thrown overboard, having eaten part of him, such as the liver and heart. From this date to Saturday the 5th of March, the following number perished from hunger: Henry Davis, a Welsh boy; Alexander Kelly, seaman; John Jones, apprentice boy

nephew to the owner; James Frier, cook; Daniel Jones, seaman; John Hutchinson, seaman; and John Jones, a boy; threw the last named overboard, his blood being bitter; also, James Frier, who was working his passage home under a promise of marriage to Ann Saunders, the female passenger, who attended on the master's wife, and who, when she heard of Frier's death, shrieked a loud yell, then, snatching a cup from Clerk, (mate,) cut her late intended husband's throat, and drank his blood, insisting that she had the greatest right to it; a scuffle ensued, and the heroine (the words of the narrator) got the better of her adversary, and then allowed him to drink one cup to her two! February 26, on or about this day, an English brig hove in sight; hoisted the ensign downward; stranger hauled his wind towards us, and hauled his foresail up, when abreast of us, kept his course, about one mile distance, set his foresail, and we soon lost sight of him; fresh breeze, with a little rain, the sea quite smooth, but he went off, having shown English colours; had he at this time taken us off the wreck, much of the consequent dreadful suffering would have been spared us. March 7, his Majesty's ship *Blonde* came in sight, and to our relief, in lat. 44. 43. N. lon. 21. 57. W. Words are quite inadequate to express our feelings, as well as those which Lord Byron and our deliverers most evidently possessed, when they found they had come to rescue six of their fellow-creatures (two of them females) from a most awful, lingering, but certain death. It came on to blow during the night a fresh gale, which would, no doubt, have swept us all overboard. Lieutenant Gambier came in the ship's cutter, to bring us from the wreck, he observed to us, 'You have yet, I perceive, fresh meat; to

which we were compelled to reply, 'No, sir; it is part of a man, one of our unfortunate crew! it was our intention to put ourselves on an allowance even of this food, this evening, had not you come to our relief.' The master's wife, who underwent all the most horrid sufferings which the human understanding can imagine, bore them much better than could possibly have been expected. She is now, although much emaciated, a respectable, good-looking woman, about twenty-five years of age, and the mother of a boy seven years of age. But, what must have been the extremity of want to which she was driven, when she eat the brains of one of the apprentices, saying it was the most delicious thing she ever tasted! and it is still more melancholy to relate, the person whose brains she was thus forced by hunger to eat, had been three times wrecked before, but was providentially picked up by a vessel, after being twenty-two days on the wreck water-logged; but, in the present instance, he perished, having survived similar sufferings for a space of twenty-nine days, and then became food for his remaining shipmates! Ann Saunders, the other female, had more strength in her calamity than most of the men; she performed the duty of cutting up and cleaning the dead bodies, keeping two knives in her mankey jacket; and when the breath was announced to have flown, she would sharpen her knives, bleed the deceased in the neck, drink his blood, and cut him up as usual. From want of water, those who perished drank their own urine and salt-water; they became foolish, crawling upon their hands round the deck (when they could) and died generally raving mad."

We cannot forbear to repeat that a more horrid and affecting narrative of human woe and suffering, it has

never been our painful duty to record. The public, who will deeply sympathize with the sufferers, will hear with some satisfaction, that the six survivors out of the sixteen persons, are likely to recover from the effects of their sufferings. We are requested by Mr Kendall, the master of the unfortunate ship, to express his heartfelt gratitude to Lord Byron for his great humanity, distinguished benevolence, and unceasing kindness and attentions to himself and fellow sufferers, who can never forget their obligations to him and his officers.

We understand that Lord Byron and the officers of the *Blonde* have subscribed L.100, and the ship's company L.100, towards the relief of the sufferers.

CANADA.—There appears in a Quebec newspaper, a copy of an address to the King, which we would recommend to the serious consideration as well of his Majesty's present Ministers as of those personages who survive from the Cabinet which preceded the Tories—we mean the Lords Grey, Lansdown, Grenville, &c.—who called themselves a Whig Administration. It seems that an "Executive Council" has been formed for Upper Canada, to advise the governor of the province in the exercise of his official duty. In this Executive Council is to be found the name of the *Chief Justice* of the colony; and against such an appointment the Legislative Assembly have, by large majorities, passed a series of resolutions, condemning, in strong but just language, its unconstitutional and dangerous character: yet we know not how, except through the conscientious honesty of the Ministers themselves, such an abuse can be well got rid of. The opposition lords cannot for shame say a word in reprobation of an offence, however scandalous, of

which the first example was furnished by themselves.

APRIL.

LONDON.—MR M'CULLOCH'S LECTURES.—Mr M'Culloch commenced the third course of the Ricardo Lectures to-day at the London Tavern, where the lectures are to be continued every subsequent Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, until completed. This lecture was introductory to the course. The lecturer showed the great importance of a knowledge of the principles of the science of political economy in all times, and particularly at the present period. He then stated the various divisions of the course, and the mode in which he meant to treat them. He intimated his intention of dwelling at considerable length on the subject of money; of pointing out the circumstances which determine the value both of metallic and paper currency; the advantages and defects incident to both these species of currency; and the measures necessary to be adopted to place our money system on the best footing, and to guard against the recurrence of revulsions similar to that we have lately experienced. Mr M'Culloch also intimated his intention of entering into a pretty full investigation of the various causes of mercantile miscalculations, or of improvident speculations and overtrading. The intention thus announced will give peculiar interest to the lectures of Mr M'Culloch, whose accurate knowledge not only of the present state of political economy, but of the degrees by which the science has grown up, and of the facts by which it is best illustrated, make him unrivalled in fitness as a public teacher of it. Mr M'Culloch

delivers the same course at the west end of the town, in the Royal Institution, where he gives his first lecture to-morrow.

GLASGOW.—RELIEF TO THE UNEMPLOYED WEAVERS.—In pursuance of the resolutions of the committee agreeing to allow the weavers' committee to recommend the most deserving objects of relief, about 180 are now employed in a quarry at the town-head. They are allowed 6d. a day for the first six days, besides the highest rate the square yard for breaking the stones. Mr Grahame of Whitehill is employing about 100 weavers in digging and trenching. He pays them every evening for the day's labour 1s. 6d. each. This excellent example, we trust, will be followed by other wealthy proprietors.

ST ANDREWS.—The Barons of Exchequer have now entered into a contract with Mr John Kennedy, builder, to clear the rubbish inside the cathedral, and to repair the walls. The removing of the rubbish is already begun, and dozens of the inhabitants are hourly crowding the labourers employed at the work.

EDINBURGH.—UNIVERSITY.—We understand that the classes in the College, especially the medical classes, have turned out extremely well this year. Though they were pretty full in 1824-5, the number of students who have matriculated during the present session exceeds those of the preceding by forty, and as a few enter for the summer classes, the excess altogether will not be much short of a hundred, and the whole number of students above 2000. If we add to these the 260 students at the Divinity classes, the whole number of young men attending the classes of this university will be nearly 2300. There will be three or four summer classes, namely, Modern History, by

Sir William Hamilton, Natural History, by Mr Jameson, Botany, by Dr Graham, and probably Natural Philosophy, by Mr Leslie.

WATERFORD.—ABSTRACTION OF THE ENGLISH MAIL BAG.—On Thursday night the Irish mail for England, by way of Milford, was carried off, under the following circumstances: The mail-cart from this city to Dunmore was dispatched from the post office at the usual hour, ten o'clock P. M., with the mail under charge of the guard, Thomas Lee. On passing the outskirts of the town, it met the mail up, when the guard left the down mail, and returned to town. (There is but one guard on the station). The mail then proceeded on to Dunmore, under charge solely of the driver, Thomas Bresnahan, who states that he went on without any interruption, till he came to a public house at the foot of Blenheim Hill, about three miles from town, where he stopped himself to take some refreshment, leaving the mail, the cart, and the horse, on the road, to take care of themselves. When Thomas came out, on he went to Dunmore, thinking no more about the matter. However, when he came down to the pier, and had to deliver his charge, he found that his charge was gone. We are much concerned, indeed, to say, that we can add nothing farther to Mr Bresnahan's discovery. That the mail is gone, is indeed most certain; but how, or where, we cannot inform our readers. The mail was placed in a locker under Mr Bresnahan's seat; but there was neither lock nor key to the locker. The mail is gone, bag and baggage, and that is the sum total of what we have to say at present. An investigation took place at our post office yesterday, and Bresnahan has been committed to jail for farther examination. We are in-

formed that bills to a large amount from this city had been remitted by this mail.

It is understood that the commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope have sent home their report; and it is farther stated, that in consequence of some fresh charges which have been furnished, not by the commissioners, but by persons officially connected with the Cape Government, an order has gone out by the Sparrowhawk for the recall of Lord Charles Somerset.

The spirits of the merchants connected with Greece have been raised at learning that it is not the intention of Government to renew the order in Council of 3d September last, forbidding the exportation of arms and ammunition, and which was particularly directed at the time against the Greeks. The period of the order, which was to be in force for six months, expired on Tuesday last, and it is ascertained farther, that an intimation has been sent down to the Custom-house, that it is not the intention of Government to renew it at present.

Dr Poynter, the Roman Catholic Bishop of the London district, in conformity with the bull of Leo XII., has ordered a jubilee to be held by the Catholics of England, to commence on Sunday next, and to be continued for six months.

GREAT STEEPLE CHASE FOR 2000 SOVEREIGNS.—Friday, this interesting match, which for some months has excited the attention of all the sporting classes, and on which more money has been betted than on any similar event for many years, was decided at Melton Mowbray. The match was between Lord Kennedy and Captain Ross, to ride from Barkby Holt to Billesdon Coplow (two covers in the Quorndon Hunt) a distance of five miles, as the crow flies; Captain

Ross to ride for himself, and Captain Douglas for his Lordship. The betting on the match has been at evens, though, in some instances, six to five have been laid on Captain Ross. At an early hour on Friday morning, a numerous concourse of sportsmen, including all the members of the different Hunts about Melton Mowbray, were at Barkby Holt, to witness the start; and a neck and neck race was anticipated by those who knew the qualities of the horses and their riders, but that expectation was completely disappointed. At a signal given by the umpires, the parties started, at a terrible slashing pace, Captain R. leading; at the first fence in his route, Captain Douglas made a leap, but, his horse not clearing it, fell; nothing daunted, he again dashed at the fence, but a second time fell, and this decided the race at once; he was seen no more in it. Captain Ross, on the contrary, made a straight-forward course across the country, to the winning point, and, having it all his own way, cleared his leaps, and won, of course, without a struggle. The result disappointed hundreds. Immense sums are lost on the occasion.

THE RECENT ABDUCTION.—The reports which have been circulated respecting the age and situation in life of Edward Gibbon Wakefield, are very incorrect. It has been said that he is upwards of forty, and that he is in indigent circumstances; whereas he is only thirty, and has at present an income of L.1000 per annum, with an early prospect of its being increased to L.3000, and in the event of his two children dying before they attain their respective majorities, L.70,000 will devolve on him. He is represented as a very elegant and personable young man, intelligent and well educated. His brother William, who is now in custody, is much younger than himself, and equally prepos-

sessing. Their father is now a candidate for the representation of Reading, and they are the nephews of a respectable Chancery barrister.

William Wakefield was examined on Monday last at Disley, near Stockport, and fully committed to Lancaster Castle for trial at the next assizes.

DREADFUL ACCIDENT.—At eleven o'clock on Saturday last, the Dorking coach was upset at Ewell. The coach left the Elephant and Castle at nine o'clock, full inside and outside, and arrived safe at Ewell, when Joseph Walker, the driver and proprietor, alighted for the purpose of delivering a parcel from the back part of the coach, and gave the reins to a boy that sat on the box to hold for him. While delivering the parcel to the person who stood near the after wheel of the coach, the boy cracked the whip, and the horses set off at the top of their speed. Several attempts were made to stop them, but in vain; they passed Ewell church, and tore away about twelve yards of strong paling, when, the wheels mounting a small eminence, the coach was overturned, and the whole of the passengers were in an instant thrown from the roof. Some of them were in a state of insensibility, showing no symptoms of life. One female was thrown upon some spikes, which entered her breast and neck; she was dreadfully mutilated, none of her features being distinguishable; she lingered until yesterday, when she expired in the greatest agony. Two were put into a post-chaise, and started immediately for London. Four of the sufferers were put to bed at the King's Head, where they now lie in a very dangerous state.

A vessel has arrived at Cork, from Cetto, with several thousand mulberry trees, for planting in such situations in Ireland as may be desirable. They have been imported by the Lon-

don Society for the introduction of the growth of silk in Ireland, and retailed at the cost price of 4d. each.

8th. EDINBURGH.—STOCKBRIDGE MARKETS.—On Saturday, these new markets were opened for the first time. The universal understanding of their uncommon magnificence, combined with the fineness of the day, attracted to them, at an early hour in the forenoon, crowds of fashionables, who continued to resort to them in increasing numbers during the whole of the day. Altogether, as lively a scene was presented as imagination can picture. The architecture of the markets, which, we understand, was designed by, and executed under the superintendence of Mr Archibald Scott, has an air of elegance and splendour, altogether Oriental, while, at every turn, we see something to convince us of the perfectness of the arrangements for securing cleanliness and comfort. All the stalls were occupied; and the tenants seemed as if inspired by the Genius of the place. The very butchers sported their nosegays; and the Naiads were less anxious to secure customers by importunity than attentive to the condition of their fish, which they kept constantly moistening by copious ablutions. Altogether, there was a grand display of flesh, fish, poultry, and vegetables. The good which is to result from the opening of these markets is greater and more general than may appear at first sight. The appearance of the place must excite sympathies in taste in those who occupy it; exalting their notions of cleanliness, civility, and decorum; and their example will decidedly influence the conduct of those who pursue the same callings in other parts of the city. It gives us great pleasure to hear that to these markets a most vigilant Inspector has been appointed, which must give to them

a decided advantage over those of the Old Town, as insuring wholesome articles to those who deal there. And that circumstance makes it doubly the duty of the Magistrates to have inspectors equally vigilant in the market under their control, for the protection of the regular butchers who occupy it. The erection of the Stock-bridge Markets was an immense undertaking, of great risk to its public-spirited projector—of certain benefit to the community,—which should be grateful to him for the zeal and excellent judgment with which he has persevered in it, till brought to a completion.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SIR THOMAS BRISBANE.—We formerly noticed that several addresses had been presented to Sir Thomas Brisbane, on his approaching departure from New Holland. We give one below, not as the most important, but as the shortest; and prefix the introductory remarks of the editor of the Australian Journal.

The non-interference of the various public officers in the business of the late meeting for voting an address to the governor, might possibly have been attributed by some to a desire to keep aloof altogether from any expression of approval of the governor's administration, and not to a desire to leave the people to show their own feelings without influence or encouragement from any. Their silence might certainly have admitted of this construction, had they not sought other means, equally expressive of their sentiments—equally gratifying to his Excellency. So far from there being any reluctance in any men, or any body of men, to testify their sense of regard for Sir Thomas Brisbane, we know of no governor who ever left this colony with stronger proofs

of good-will and attachment than will attend him.

The address of the civil officers to his Excellency fully demonstrates the respect he is held in by all who have subscribed their names to it. But this is not the only effect of this public act—this open avowal of all who hold offices of consequence in the colony. It tends to give a character to the public meeting, and the public address, which it describes as proceeding from all classes. We are sincerely glad to find the ins and the outs—the people in office and the people out of office—the multitude and the chosen few, inspired with equal zeal to render proper homage to the governor, on the occasion of his leaving the colony. We sincerely think he deserves it, because we think him sincere in his offerings of good wishes—in his promises of such assistance as his situation in England may enable him to extend to the colony. We are far from wishing to pass over or extenuate any errors of his government; but we are bound in justice to acknowledge that very few of them were his own. We are bound in justice, too, not to forget that the colony has enjoyed unexampled prosperity under his mild and impartial rule—his constitutional and English-like administration. If we reflect how much a governor has it in his power to oppress—what scope he has for favouritism—the inutility, too, of complaint, at least until redress is of no avail,—the little that a wronged few can effect against the arm of power; when these things are considered, we cannot bring within our recollection one single act of oppression—one solitary exercise of arbitrary power—one isolated example of misrule solely attributed to himself—can our readers wonder that we should be thus forward to echo the voice of the people.

or endeavour, by thus proclaiming their grateful feelings, to afford one moment of future pleasure to his Excellency, when he may recur, in his recollections, to the last moments he spent among the colonists of New South Wales?

ADDRESS OF CIVIL OFFICERS.

New South Wales, Oct. 26, 1825.

To his Excellency Major-General Sir Thomas Brisbane, K.C.B. Capt.-General and Governor-in-Chief in and over his Majesty's Territory of New South Wales and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

We, the undersigned, civil officers of New South Wales, beg leave to approach your Excellency, on the eve of your departure from the colony, with the warmest sentiments of respect and esteem. Our official capacities precluded us from joining in the tribute of grateful admiration which your Excellency's public conduct called forth from all classes of the community, at the general meeting of the colonists. Anxious, however, to evince our respectful attachment, we earnestly entreat permission to place a portrait of your Excellency in the Government-House of New South Wales, to remain as a memento of the warmth and affectionate feelings with which your Excellency's character has inspired us.—We have the honour to be your Excellency's faithful and devoted servants. (Signed)

FRANCIS FORBES, Chief-Just. &c.

THE GOVERNOR'S ANSWER.

Gentlemen,

It will afford me a very sincere gratification to sit for my picture, to be placed in the Government-House; and I estimate this parting tribute of respect and affection the more high-

ly, from a sense of the delicate manner in which it has been offered. If my efforts in the public service have been attended with success, it has been in a great degree owing to the support and assistance I have received from the civil officers of the colony. In your zeal and ability I have always found a ready resource, and in your private society I have experienced much consolation. You will long live in my grateful recollection; and while I cherish an affectionate remembrance of the years I have spent among you, I shall earnestly pray for the health and happiness of yourselves and your families.

THOMAS BRISBANE.

Government-House, Sydney, Nov. 1, 1825.

PRESBYTERIAN REGIMENTS.—Recently a considerable sensation was excited by the fact of a Scottish regiment in Belfast, composed of men brought up in the doctrine and discipline of Presbytery, being compelled to attend an Episcopal Church there. The soldiers themselves felt it as a grievance, and the people of Belfast, who are distinguished as zealous Presbyterians, cried out against the act as an infringement of religious liberty, and an insult to Presbytery. It appears from the Northern Whig of Saturday, that the subject has been attended to at head-quarters, orders having been issued from the Horse Guards, by the Commander-in-Chief, "that Presbyterian soldiers shall be allowed to attend the meeting-houses of any denomination of Presbyterians, the ministers of which receive a stipend from the Crown." All the Presbyterian clergy in Ulster receive small salaries from the Crown.

DISTURBANCES AT BLACKBURN.

Blackburn Mail-Office, Tuesday evening,
18th, half past seven o'clock.

This moment about twenty of the

1st Dragoon Guards have set off for Henfield and Accrington, a report having reached Mr Kay, our deputy constable, that an immense number of persons had assembled for the purpose of attacking and destroying the power-loom factory of Messrs Sykes, at Accrington; in fact, we believe, the windows have already been completely demolished. This report caused the greatest alarm in this town, and thousands are now assembled in the streets.

Half Past Eight.—The market coaches have just arrived, and one of them has been assailed with a volley of stones, in consequence of which the vehicle was materially damaged, and, we are sorry to add, several manufacturers are seriously injured.

Ten o'Clock.—The riot act has been read in the Market Place, and two parties of soldiers are out in Darwen Street and Northgate. After the attack on the coach, the assembled multitude did not manifest any farther symptoms of insubordination, and began quietly to disperse; and at this hour the streets are become pretty clear.

(Second Edition.)

Wednesday, Noon.—The soldiers returned from Accrington this morning, a little after eight o'clock. When they reached that place they found a considerable number of persons assembled, who, however, were quite peaceable, and soon after their arrival they gradually dispersed; no farther disturbance having taken place. It appears that the windows of that part of Mr Sykes's factory where the power-loom stand, are completely demolished; but, we believe, no damage was done to the machinery. An attack was also made upon the house of Mr Lancaster, and considerable injury done to the windows; but we are happy to say that it does

not appear any lives were lost, or that any one has received personal harm.

We have just been informed that the house of Mr Haworth, the overseer of Church Bank, near Accrington, was last night or early this morning broken into, and a considerable quantity of wearing apparel, provisions, &c. stolen therefrom. The robbers have not yet been heard of, but we have no doubt they were some of the party who made the attack upon the factory. An entrance was effected through the dairy window.

This morning, a man of the name of T. Bury was fully committed to the Preston House of Correction to take his trial at the next Sessions, charged with being a ringleader in the attack on the coach, &c. He was apprehended immediately after the attack, and taken into the Duke of York public-house, from whence he was rescued by the mob; but Mr Kay having received a description of him, retook him about three o'clock this morning in bed.

24th.—EDINBURGH.—The day appointed for holding the anniversary of the birth of his most gracious Majesty, viz. the 23d of April (St George's day,) falling on Sunday, it was this day kept as a holiday at the Banks and Public Offices. At half past seven A. M. the Royal Standard was hoisted on the Castle. A similar ensign was displayed at Leith Fort, and the Union flag on Nelson's Monument on the Calton-hill; the vessels in Leith Roads likewise hoisted their colours. At half past twelve, the 17th regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Maclane, and the two depot companies of the 42d regiment, commanded by Major Menzies, formed on the Castlehill, and at one o'clock a *feu-de-joie* was fired from the guns on the ramparts and the military, which was followed by three

hearty huzzas, the band of the 17th playing "God save the King" during the intervals of firing. The crowd on the hill was unprecedentedly great. The 7th Light Dragoons (Hussars) paraded through the New Town, preceded by the fine band of that gallant regiment, and attracted much notice. The music-bells at St Giles's Cathedral played innumerable loyal and national airs, and the bells of the other churches rang as usual in honour of the day.

MID-LOTHIAN AND FIFE FERRIES.

—The opposition to the new bill has now become very formidable. The Magistrates and Town Council of Kinghorn, the inhabitants of Burntisland, and a great proportion of the heritors of Fife, have petitioned against it, as well as the county of Angus, the Town Council of Dundee, and Merchant Company of Edinburgh.

LIBERAL DONATION OF HIS MAJESTY.—We are happy to announce that our gracious and beloved Sovereign, actuated by the benevolence which so strongly marks his character, has given £1000 for the relief of the distressed poor in this town.—*Macclesfield Herald.*

24th.—**MELANCHOLY LOSS OF A FISHING BOAT.**—On Monday forenoon, as one of the Ferryden (Montrose) fishing boats, with a crew of six men, was passing through Lunan Bay for the former place, with a heavy sea running, and the wind blowing fresh from the NW, she was struck by a sea on the broadside, and swamped, when five of her crew were instantly drowned. The situation of the boat being observed by the crew of the preventive coast guard stationed at Red Castle, they, with a praiseworthy alacrity, manned their boat and proceeded to render assistance. On reaching the fishing boat, they found her bottom up, and one man in a state of insensibility clinging with

the grasp of death to the keel (all the other five having disappeared). They took him into their boat, but by the time they reached the shore the vital spark had fled, and all attempts to restore animation totally failed. By this melancholy event five widows, (some of whom are in an advanced state of pregnancy,) and twenty-one children, are deprived of their husbands and fathers, and with them of the means of their daily subsistence. One woman has lost a husband, a son, and a brother, and two of the other women who are deprived of their husbands are sisters, who also had a brother among the sufferers.

ALARMING RIOTS IN LANCASHIRE.

From the Manchester Guardian, Blackburn Mail, and Bolton Chronicle.

The Hundred of Blackburn, in the county of Lancaster, extending from the western limits of the county of York to the eastern bank of the Ribble and the southern bank of the Darwen, comprehending a tract of country 18 miles in width and 24 miles in length, with a population of about 20,000 souls, has been during the whole of the present week in a state of great commotion. For six weeks or two months past, emissaries, chiefly, we believe, from a village in the neighbourhood of Blackburn, have been travelling about the country, representing to the weavers that all their distresses were owing to the power-looms, and urging them to rise and destroy those machines; stating, at the same time, that the government, the magistrates, and all persons, except the proprietors of the looms, would be exceedingly glad to see them destroyed; and that the military would offer no resistance, provided the people confined their operations to the destruction of the

power-looms. On Saturday morning, the news of his Majesty's subscription of L.1000, for the relief of the suffering work-people, was received in Blackburn, and it was hoped that this munificent donation, and the affectionate sympathy expressed in so high a quarter, would have served to tranquillize the minds of the people; but it appears from the *Blackburn Mail*, that active preparations had been making during the week for a general rise, and that on Monday morning, several thousands of persons assembled on the hills in the neighbourhood of Accrington, armed with pikes or bludgeons, and some with fire-arms. The first object of their renewed attack was Mr Sykes's factory. Meeting with little or no opposition, they entered the building, and, after giving three cheers, rushed into the room where the power-looms were employed, and completely destroyed every one of them. On the arrival of the intelligence that the mob had reassembled at Accrington, a party of the 1st Dragoons, stationed at Blackburn, were sent off to that place, but long before they arrived the mischief was done, and they met the mob on their way proceeding towards Blackburn, armed and equipped for their desperate enterprise. On the arrival of the military at Accrington, they found that not only the factory of Mr Sykes, but those also of Messrs Walmesley, at Rough Hey, near that place, and Messrs Berry, at White Ash, had both been entered, and that all the power-looms in those buildings had been entirely demolished, though no injury was done or attempted to any other part of the works.

The mob having entered Blackburn in the absence of the principal part of the military, they proceeded directly to the factory of Messrs Eccles and Co. in Darwen-street (the

principal power-loom establishment), and having forced open the doors, a part of them entered, whilst the remainder, armed with pikes, &c. continued outside, as if to guard the works. The party who entered proceeded into all the rooms where the power-looms stood, and, after tearing out all the work, demolished the machinery, until they left not a single loom standing. Whilst this was going on, the few soldiers left in the town were mustered, and, accompanied by a magistrate, went to the spot, and rode into the factory yard. There the riot act was read, and the soldiers then charged upon the party, who were standing armed with pikes, and succeeded in securing a considerable number of those weapons; they also took several men prisoners, who were immediately conveyed under an escort of soldiers to a place of security.

About three o'clock, the soldiers were dispatched to Grimshaw Park, where there is another power-loom factory, and towards which a part of the mob had already directed their steps. The ground on which the factory stands was unfavourable for the soldiers; some of the mob pelted them with stones, whilst others, armed with pikes, &c. pressed forward, and after three attacks, overpowered the soldiers, and entered the lower part of the factory, where they destroyed all the power-looms, and then retired, but not before some of the party had been captured. In the course of the affray, several shots were exchanged between the soldiers and the mob, and two spectators in the crowd were shot and received very serious injuries; indeed their recovery is considered doubtful.—Whilst the mob were at this place, our informant saw a poor fellow lie down before the feet of the soldiers' horses; he said they might trample on him if they liked, he was starving to death, but he

would persist in breaking the power-looms.

After the mob had thus wreaked their vengeance on the factory at Grimshaw Park, they returned to Blackburn.

About eight o'clock in the evening, six men, who had been apprehended, were examined before the magistrate, and being remanded for further examination, were immediately sent to the House of Correction at Preston, in two post-chaises, in the custody of the constables, escorted by a party of soldiers. About ten, another troop of horse arrived from Burnley. The damage sustained by the attacks on the power-loom factories, in the course of this day, according to the most moderate computation, cannot amount to less than *ten thousand pounds* !

At five o'clock on Tuesday morning, a troop of the Queen's Bays arrived at Blackburn, from Manchester, and nearly at the same moment came an express from Clitheroe, stating that a disposition had been manifested by the same party who had visited Blackburn, to attack the works of Messrs Garnett and Horsfall, at Low Moor. At six o'clock, the dragoons (both those previously stationed in Blackburn, and those who arrived on Monday night), together with the Queen's Bays, set off for Low Moor. It seems, however, that the mob were not all at Low Moor, but a detachment of them, amounting to near four thousand, went to Over Darwen, and being joined by some of the weavers there, attacked and entered the factory of Mr Carr, where they destroyed all the power-looms (about eighteen in number); they then went to the factory of Mr James Grime, at which place they destroyed about sixteen power-looms; after which, without doing any farther damage to the factories or other property there,

they departed for Haslingden. At Helmsore, in the neighbourhood of that place, they attacked the factory of Mr Turner, and destroyed all the power-looms in the building. Here about thirty of the rioters were made prisoners, and confined in the house of Mr Turner, but the mob soon repaired to the house in great numbers and effected their rescue.

RAWTONSTALL, CHATTERTON, BURY, &c.—On Wednesday morning, a very large number of persons, chiefly from the neighbourhoods of Haslingden and Newchurch, attacked the factory of Messrs Thomas Whitehead and Brothers, at Rawtonstall, near Edenfield, where they destroyed all the power-looms, 190 in number. They then proceeded to Long Holme, where they destroyed forty in the factory of Mr Kay, and three in that of Mr Hoyle. They afterwards went to the factory of Messrs L. and J. Rostron, of Dearden-clough, where they broke fifty-eight looms.

So far the rioters had proceeded in their lawless career, without opposition or interruption, but in their next enterprise a different fate awaited them. Intelligence of the commencement of their proceedings having been conveyed to the military who were guarding the extensive establishment of Messrs Ashton of Ramsbottom, a party of about fourteen riflemen, and about the same number of dragoons, under the command of Colonel Kearney and Major Eckersley, set out in search of them, accompanied by William Grant, Esq. They proceeded to the factory of Mr Aiken, of Chadderton, which was understood to be an object of attack; but not finding the rioters there, set out in the direction in which they were understood to be, and met them about a quarter of a mile from Mr Aiken's factory. The troops then formed across the road, and stopped

the farther progress of the rioters. Mr Grant then read the riot act, and entreated the misguided men to return home; but they told him, without hesitation, that they would not return until they had destroyed all the looms. As their progress along the road was stopped by the military, they got over the fences, and proceeded across the fields to Mr Aiken's premises; whither, of course, the military and the magistrates returned, and arrived there about the same time as the mob. The military formed upon the road close to the factory, round which the people assembled in very great numbers, and, in a few minutes, began to pelt the soldiers with stones, which were showered upon them from all sides, without intermission. At the same time a number of the mob broke the windows at the back of the factory, got into it, and began to destroy the power-looms. Colonel Kearney, finding the lives of his men endangered, and being himself struck with a large stone, at length ordered the troops to fire, which they did—at first over the heads of the people, but, as that had no effect but to encourage them, the riflemen began to take deadly aim; and several persons fell, some mortally wounded. The mob then gave way, and part of them were pursued by the military, whose attention was thus drawn off from the premises; and no sooner were their backs turned than the work of destruction recommenced, and the whole of the looms, 46 in number, were completely broken. The military then returned from the pursuit, and went back to the factory, where they made a number of prisoners, driving the mob entirely away from the premises to the neighbouring hills. The military then returned to Ramsbottom, with their prisoners; and before they had reached that place, the rioters came back to Mr Aiken's premises, where they

destroyed two dressing-machines, which had previously escaped their notice.

The number who were killed on the spot, or died of their wounds within a few hours, is six, one of whom, we are sorry to say, is a woman. Of the number wounded on this occasion, it is impossible to speak with any degree of certainty, as some of them came from distant places, and were carried away by their friends. The number is stated to be very considerable; but we have only heard the names of six; four of whom are dangerously wounded.

Notwithstanding the loss of lives, and the wounds inflicted on this occasion, the rioters proceeded to the factory of Messrs Hamer and Son, at Somersat, on the road to Bury, where they broke all the looms, 36 in number. They then went on to the factory of Mr James Hutchison, at Woodhill, quite close to the town of Bury, where they broke about 50 looms, out of 200 which the factory contained. Information of their proceedings having been promptly conveyed to Bury, a party of riflemen immediately turned out, and Captain Goldfrap, at the head of 20 men, ran at full speed to the factory, where they arrived in time to save the bulk of the looms, and to take fourteen prisoners, several of whom were apprehended in the factory.

CHORLEY.—Shortly after noon on Thursday, a large mob made their appearance at one of the factories belonging to Messrs George and Robert Hilton of Chorley, where there were nearly 100 steam-looms. The principals were not at home. Colonel Silvester, the magistrate, attended as soon as possible, and read the riot act, amidst volleys of stones flying in all directions, by which several of the people belonging to the mill were much hurt.

MANCHESTER.—We are sorry that

the disturbances, which have during the present week agitated Blackburn, and other parts of the county, have extended to this town. On Thursday morning, groups of men and boys began to collect in the neighbourhood of St George's Road, Great Newton Street, &c. &c. and formed themselves into a body, in a field near St George's Road, where, about ten o'clock, they held a sort of meeting. After a short time, they adjourned to six o'clock in the evening. At the time of their adjourned meeting there were collected together about 3000 people, chiefly boys, shouting and making a most tumultuous noise. They were addressed by Mr Prentice of the Manchester Gazette, who remonstrated with them on the impolicy of their proceedings. A cry of the constables having reached the ground, caused the mob to decamp in all directions. The mill of Mr Kennedy having ceased working, they passed it without much notice, but stopped at the mill of Messrs Joseph Clarke and Sons, in Pollard Street, and that of Messrs T. and M. Harbottle, which are near each other. They broke a number of windows in it, but on being told that there were no power-looms there, they passed on to the mill of Messrs Copeley, Barrow, and Co., which we believe was unoccupied; they, however, broke some of the windows, and then went on through New Islington, still increasing in numbers, to the mill of Mr Hugh Beaver, in Jersey Street, which contains a considerable number of power-looms, and immediately began to demolish the windows of the counting-house, and of the lower story of the factory, through which pieces of burning cotton were thrown. The counting-house and the first story were immediately set in flames, which had communicated to the room where the grey goods were kept, before the arrival of the engines. About the same time, a large party of spe-

cial constables, and some of the military arrived, and cleared the ground in front of the mill. The flames were soon got under, and by 10 o'clock were totally extinguished. It is understood that the damage done at Mr Beaver's will be from three to four thousand pounds.

After committing this destructive act, the rioters proceeded to the factory of Mr Duck, in Oak Street, breaking most of the windows, without doing farther injury. The neighbouring mill of Messrs John Greenwood and Co. also sustained some damage in this way. They then proceeded along Swan Street, doing a great deal of wanton mischief by the road, (such as breaking the chamber windows of houses,) to the mill of Mr Mottershead, in Miller's Lane; this they mistook for the power-loom factory of Messrs Clogg, Norris, and Co., but which stands back from the street enclosed in a yard. Under this supposition they proceeded to break the windows, and threatened farther destruction, when they were dispersed by the military.

Friday morning, groups of idle and disorderly persons, chiefly boys, had assembled. At length, about six o'clock, the civil power, charged upon that part of the crowd where the most mischief appeared to be going on, and for the moment dispersed them. The cavalry then scoured the streets, and the police made prisoners of twenty-four. After this the crowds did not attempt to re-assemble.

Manchester Gazette office, ten o'clock, Saturday evening.—In order to allay the apprehensions of persons at a distance, we have been induced at this late hour to make a second edition. All was tranquil during the night. About eleven o'clock this forenoon a number of persons began to assemble in the neighbourhood of the New Cross, and about noon, the Cheshire Yeomanry were considerably an-

noyed by the stones thrown by the individuals collected. One of the Yeomanry received a rather serious injury from a brick-bat, and others were slightly hurt. About half past twelve, the windows of the foundry of Messrs Peel, Williams, and Co., were broken, and at one o'clock, it was thought necessary to read the riot act. Since that time the means taken to repress further violence have proved effectual.

MAY.

1st.—LONDON.—SALE OF FOUR THEATRES.—This day, the long-announced sale of the Worthing, Southend, Hythe, and Gravesend Theatres, took place at Robins's Rooms, Covent Garden, and was attended by a very numerous assemblage of the *corps dramatique*, and others. They were disposed of as follows:—The Worthing Theatre, freehold of inheritance, on lease to Messrs Evans and Burton, who are bound to pay a moiety of the rent and taxes, for three years, from Christmas next, at L.250 per annum, wardrobe, scenery, machinery, &c. included in the purchase, lessees to repair—L. 3900. The Gravesend Theatre, freehold, with the scenery, machinery, &c. let to Mr Faucit Saville for three years, at L.70 a-year—L.1050. The Southend Theatre, copyhold, with the scenery and properties—L.720. The Hythe Theatre, freehold, with the scenery and properties—L.480.

The subscription commenced in the city on Tuesday, for the relief of the manufacturers, gets on spiritedly, as far as the public are concerned; upwards of forty thousand pounds have been received.

Thursday produced a large accession to the subscriptions in London.

In the list of contributors we find Prince Leopold, L.500, Lord Sondes, L.500, the Bank of England, L.1000, the West India Planters in London, L.500, the Duke of Devonshire, L.500, the Duke of Northumberland, L.1000, the Earl of Darlington, L.1000, Earl Grosvenor, L.200, the Duke of Wellington, L.300, and many other names with large sums. The total amount exceeded L.12,000.

DUEL.—The American papers of the 14th April, give the following account of a duel between Mr Clay, Secretary of State, and Mr Randolph, of Virginia:—"On Saturday afternoon a duel was fought on the banks of the Potomac, between Henry Clay and John Randolph. General Jessup and Henry Johnson, of Louisiana, were the seconds of Mr Clay; Colonel Tattall, of Georgia, and Colonel Hamilton, of South Carolina, were Mr Randolph's seconds. In the Senate of the United States, Mr Randolph had been permitted by the presiding officer, Mr Calhoun, on more occasions than one, to call Mr Clay a gambler and a black-leg. Mr Clay gave Mr Randolph an opportunity to explain, by calling upon him in writing to know whether he intended to call him a political gambler, or to attach the infamy of such epithets to his private life. Mr Randolph declined any explanation. A challenge became inevitable; it was sent by Mr Clay, and accepted by Mr Randolph, and the parties met at four P.M. The first fire Mr Randolph's pistol went off by accident, and Mr Clay declined to fire. The accident being corrected, both parties fired and missed. A second fire was had without effect, when Mr Randolph stepped up to Mr Clay, gave him his hand, and made the proper acknowledgments, and thus the affair ended."

By the Milo, letters and papers have been received from Boston to the 16th

ult. being nearly a fortnight later than the previous advices. Commercial distress at Boston was at its height, and several of the most respectable houses had been compelled to yield to the pressure of the times, having been deeply involved by the failures in London at the beginning of the year. The public funds of the United States have experienced a material depression, and the exchange on London had fluctuated greatly.

8th.—GLASGOW.—Agreeably to public intimation, a meeting of the weavers of the East district of the Barony parish, was held this night, at half past seven o'clock, to petition the justices of the peace and the heritors on the present distress. A petition to the justices and heritors of the district was then read. It stated in substance that the petitioners had laboured under a great depression of wages for four years. Within these six months the average wages did not exceed 4s. a-week. They were rendered nearly desperate by excess of suffering. It was absolutely necessary that something should be done to afford them permanent relief. They asked no gratuitous assistance, as they would prefer working for wages at out-door labour. A committee was appointed to present the petition, and after some local business, the meeting broke up.

Extract from a pamphlet on the Insolvent and Bankrupt Laws:—"It is computed that 130,000 writs were issued in 1825 against debtors in England, of whom 75,000 were absolutely incarcerated. On the smallest calculation, the expenses they were antecedently and subsequently run to, by law processes, must have amounted to L.100 individually, and averaging the whole, makes the sum total L.8,325,000 taken from the pockets of their creditors, and shared among the legalists. Added to those losses, came the bankrupt-list of 3200; allowing each estate was injured to the trifling charge of

L.300 before and after the striking of the docket, increase the legalists' bills to L.9,320,200."

8th.—LONDON.—LONDON HIBERNIAN SOCIETY.—This Society held its twentieth anniversary. The meeting assembled in Freemasons' Hall, and was very respectably attended—Lord Gambier in the Chair. A very satisfactory report of the proceedings of the Society was read, and agreed to. Several resolutions, prefaced by appropriate speeches, were adopted, but the most remarkable proceeding occurred when the business of the day was about to close.

The Reverend E. Irving, minister of the Caledonian chapel, requested the attention of the meeting for a few minutes, while he addressed them on the scheme of education brought forward by the Commissioners of Irish education in the report they had lately presented to the House of Commons. It was proposed that public schools of general instruction should be established in each benefice, in which education should be afforded to the children of parents of all religions. Two teachers were to be appointed to each school, one a Roman Catholic and the other a Presbyterian; two days in the week were to be set apart for religious exercises; on the one, the Catholic children were to receive instruction from their priests, and on the other, the Protestants from their clergymen; but the instruction given in the schools at other times was not to interfere with the peculiar tenets of either party. In his opinion the plan would never answer the end proposed, which was to conciliate both parties. After some farther observations, the Reverend Gentleman concluded in the following extraordinary language:—"Silver and gold I have none, but what I have I give thee." I have no money but from two sources—from my church, and by that I must live; for 'they that

partake of the altar should live by the altar ;' and I make it a principle not to lay by a farthing of my receipts from that source. The other is from my books, and the produce of these I devote conscientiously to religious charities. I give you now (having no money) the dying gift of a dear brother, who breathed his last in India, and who died, I hope, in the faith of Christ, which he received through a minister of the establishment—(here Mr Irving handed to the Secretary a gold watch,) and I pledge myself to redeem that, to me, precious gift, out of the first produce of the sale of my last book." He then laid on the table a handsome gold watch. The chairman requested he would take it back again, and repeatedly offered it to him, but he refused, saying, that so great an interest did he feel in the welfare of the society, that no power on earth should induce him to accept it.

This extraordinary scene excited considerable sensation in the meeting.

12th.—The King has been pleased to appoint Major-General Sir Neil Campbell, Knt. C. B. to be Captain-General, and Governor in Chief of the colony of Sierra Leone and its dependencies, in Africa.—*London Gazette*.

The King has been pleased to appoint Sir James Wemyss Mackenzie, Bart. to be Lieutenant and Sheriff Principal of the shire of Ross, in the room of Sir Hector Mackenzie, Bart. deceased.—*Do*.

DEPARTURE OF THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE.—The Gloucester, with his Excellency the Duke of Devonshire and suite on board, set sail on Wednesday morning with a fair wind on his embassy to the Emperor of Russia.

Lord Charles Somerset has come home from the Cape of Good Hope in the Atlas Indianman, which arrived off Weymouth on Friday. It is under-

stood that the Atlas brings duplicate dispatches relative to the termination of the Burmese war.

We have carefully inspected the returns or estimates sent up of the workmen out of employment in England and in Scotland, and from every information the numbers cannot be estimated under 250,000 souls. The numbers in Manchester only are 42,000, including, we suppose, all the members of the families.—*Globe*.

O'CONNELL and COBBETT.—Our readers have not, of course, forgotten the elegant and edifying recriminations which have passed between Mr O'Connell and his "comical miscreant," as he lately called Cobbett. Are they then prepared to learn, that on Tuesday last, at an aggregate meeting of the Catholics of Ireland, this same Mr O'Connell, not only seconded a resolution proposed by Captain Gorman, for passing a vote of thanks to this same "comical miscreant," but that, in a subsequent stage of the proceedings, he "praised Cobbett to the skies" (we quote from the *Freeman's Journal*,) and moved, as an amendment, "that the thanks of the Catholics should be given to the liberal press of England, and, in particular to William Cobbett?"

17th.—EDINBURGH.—This day, a highly respectable meeting of the inhabitants was held in the Assembly Rooms, George Street, agreeably to a notice from the Magistrates, for the purpose of subscribing for the relief of the present distress under which the manufacturers in various parts of the country are suffering. Among those present we observed Lord Forbes, the Lord President, the Lord Justice Clerk, Baron Clerk Rattray, Lords Pitmilley, Alloway, and Medwyn, the Solicitor-General, Sir William Forbes, Sir John Hay, Sir John Hope, &c.

The Lord Provost was called to the chair.

His Lordship rose and said,—“I am sorry that the circumstances of the times render it unnecessary for me to offer any apology for your attendance being requested here to-day. I was happy to find, upon my return from London, that the Magistrates, in concurrence with the wishes of many highly respectable individuals, and, I believe, I may say of the community at large, had requested their fellow-citizens to convene here to-day for the purpose of opening a subscription, and considering the best means of alleviating the miseries and privations under which the manufacturing operative classes in many districts of our country at present labour. It is not my intention, here, to detain you by inquiring minutely into the causes which have produced this great distress. It is sufficient for our present purpose to know, that it does exist in a great and almost unexampled degree, and that it has hitherto been met by a degree of fortitude and forbearance, which, while it reflects the highest honour on the patience, on the good feeling, and characteristic discretion of our suffering countrymen, calls the more loudly for a willing and benevolent ear on your part to the miseries to which they are now reduced. This call will, I am sure, not be made in vain. Their appeal, though on their part in silence, will not be the less regarded; and the noble example set by our most gracious Sovereign and his subjects in our sister kingdom, will be hailed as an additional proof, if proofs were wanting, of that liberality of sentiment and proper use of wealth which has ever constituted one of the brightest and proudest features of the British character. In our own city and neighbourhood, there are numbers of industrious families thrown out of employment, and in a state of actual want. In the west country, we know

the distress is very great. In the Paisley district alone, there are upwards of 8000 turned out of work, and without the means of subsistence, notwithstanding a heavy assessment and large contributions made in that neighbourhood for their temporary support. In Glasgow, their situation is equally bad, and in the northern districts, particularly Arbroath and neighbourhood, the situation both of merchants and of the manufacturing operatives who have been thrown idle, is most alarming. It is for you, then, to give a helping hand to alleviate this suffering, and to distribute the money which your bounty provides, in such a manner as to promote industry and useful works, while you prevent the people from starvation.”

Mr Solicitor-General Hope said, that in rising to propose certain resolutions, the object of them having been alluded to by the Lord Provost, he felt it unnecessary for him to appeal to the feelings of the meeting. The distress of the manufacturing community was unparalleled in point of extent and severity. In almost all the manufacturing districts, many thousands of the labouring population had been suddenly thrown out of employment. The usual parochial funds had been found quite inadequate to meet the demand upon them. In Forfarshire, in Renfrewshire, in Ayrshire, in Glasgow, and even in our own city, the distress was unexampled, among the class of the community to which he alluded, and imperiously called upon their sympathy and feelings for relief. He could urge their claims with the greater force, as the utmost privations had not only been borne without any symptom of disorder, but even without murmur or impatience; not a single act of violence had been committed, and the people had not for an instant swerved from their duty to the laws. It was

with heartfelt satisfaction, that he advocated their claims, and asked for their conduct what their sufferings deserved. It was a striking and remarkable fact, that, out of the thousands in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, destitute of work, there was not one case before the last Circuit Court from the Upper District of Renfrewshire; such conduct was a striking proof of the good sense and moral feeling of the people in that district, and gave them strong claims on the sympathy of their countrymen. He considered it unnecessary, after the statement made by the Lord Provost, to enter into any detail; that distress prevailed, and to a melancholy extent, was undoubted, and, he thought, it would be best to leave to the committee to distribute the bounty as they should see proper. The Solicitor-General then read the resolutions.

Lord Forbes said, he was happy in being allowed to second the resolutions. They were agreed to unanimously.

Mr Solicitor-General read two letters, one from Arbroath, and the other from Paisley. The former stated that there were 2243 out of employment at present, and in the course of three weeks, 1835 would be discharged. In Paisley, it was understood that there were 2200 families out of work, which might amount to 8000 persons.

Subscription papers were handed round the room, and upwards of L.1500 subscribed. The Lord Provost announced that the Earl of Moray had sent him a note, authorizing his name to be put down for L.100.—(Applause.)

The meeting then broke up.

18th.—LONDON.—A special meeting of the Directors and Proprietors of the Provincial Bank of Ireland was held at the City of London Tavern, Edward Blount, Esq. in the chair. The report, which was read, conclu-

ded with declaring an annual dividend of four per cent, clear of all charges and losses, which last did not exceed L.200. Mr Spring Rice anticipated, with certainty, a much higher dividend in future years. The report gave great satisfaction.

19th.—FANCY DRESS BALL.—The Grand Fancy-Dress Ball for the benefit of the distressed Manufacturers of Spitalfields took place at Covent-Garden Theatre. The house was on the occasion fitted up with much splendour of decoration, and brilliancy of lighting. The pit was covered with a platform, and connected with the stage, and together formed an extensive and most convenient promenade for the company, which was numerous, and embraced the greater portion of the nobility and fashion now in town. The boxes were arranged for private parties, and a spacious gallery was erected at the extremity of the stage for the reception and accommodation of those members of the Royal Family who were present, amongst whom were their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Clarence, Sussex, and Gloucester, the Princess Augusta, the Duchesses of Gloucester and Kent, Prince Leopold, and the Princess Feodore. The dresses of the ladies were splendid on the whole, a number of gentlemen were in full dress uniform, and the *tout ensemble* presented a spectacle superb in the extreme. The company altogether could not comprise less than 3000 persons; indeed, so great was the pressure of the crowd, that it was occasionally quite impossible to move for several minutes together. The sum received amounted to L.3000.

His Majesty, with his characteristic benevolence, has remitted the sum of Five Hundred Pounds to the Chairman of the Committee in Dublin, for the relief of the working manufacturers of that city.

23d.—LEEDS.—A LOVER STABBED.

—A shocking event has occurred at Pudsey, a village near Leeds. A young man named Joseph Blackburn, a respectable manufacturer, was enamoured of one of the daughters of Mr Thomas Fairfax Carlisle, an inhabitant of the same village; but his suit being discouraged by the father, the lover on his return from Leeds market, rather late that night, and somewhat fresh in liquor, took it into his head to speak to the lady, although she and all the family were gone to bed. He threw earth against her chamber window, and awoke her, and then mounted the ledge of the parlour window on the ground floor, holding with his hands by the chamber window-sill above. Miss Carlisle came to the window, and earnestly entreated him to retire, but he did not comply. The noise awoke a younger sister who slept in the same room, and she, imagining that thieves were breaking into the house, started out of bed, and ran to inform her father and brother. The former, under this impression, seized a sword which hung in his bed-room, went into the parlour, and seeing through the window the figure of the supposed robber, dashed the sword through the glass, deep into the abdomen of the unfortunate young man. He was, however, able to reach his brother's house, about 500 yards off, his trowsers and shoes soaked in blood; but, notwithstanding surgical assistance, he died of the inflammation of the wound on Thursday morning. The coroner's inquest returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Mr Carlisle, and he has been committed to York Castle for trial. Mr Blackburn's elder brother is married to Miss Carlisle's eldest sister.

28th.—DISTRESSING ACCIDENT.—**DORCHESTER.**—A melancholy event occurred yesterday, which has created a strong sensation, and excited a general feeling of sympathy and regret.

As Keith Fraser, Esq. of the 6th Enniskillen Dragoons, (brother of Sir William Fraser, Bart. and of Major Fraser, 7th Hussars,) accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Keene and Captain Portman, of the same regiment, was riding on the Downs, at Bincombe, near this town, his horse, a valuable, although a vicious animal, ran off at full speed, and reaching the summit of a high hill, which, on the other side, was nearly perpendicular, plunged forward, when both were precipitated to the bottom, a height of nearly 200 feet. On the arrival of Colonel Keene and Captain Portman at the spot, they found the unfortunate young gentleman lying in a senseless state. Medical assistance being procured as promptly as possible, Mr Fraser was conveyed on a litter to the Barracks, where he lingered in a state of utter insensibility till two o'clock this morning, when he expired. By the fall, the horse's back was broken, and he was, of necessity, killed on the ground. Mr Fraser was in his 22d year, and had only, in the course of the morning, received a notification of his promotion to a Lieutenancy.

JUNE.

The proclamations for dissolving the present Parliament and calling a new one, received the Royal signature on Thursday, the 1st, and appeared in the Gazette on Saturday; the first is for the election of members of the House of Commons, and the second for the election of sixteen Representative Peers for Scotland, which is to take place at the Palace of Holyrood, on the 13th of next month. Both the writs are returnable on the 25th of July.

A young female, of the name of Harrison, only sixteen years of age, daughter of a respectable tradesman

residing at Birmingham, without consulting any of her friends, packed up a change of linen, and started for London last week by the coach, to present a petition to the King on behalf of her brother, a youth of 15, who was convicted at the last Warwick assizes, with two other lads, of stealing some gold from a Mr Price, and ordered to be transported for life. She was induced to this step from the excessive grief of her mother, whose life is despaired of, at the degradation of her son, and in the idea of her child being separated from her for ever. She states in her petition that this was her brother's first offence, and that he had been seduced into a committal of the crime by his more experienced companions; and makes a pathetic appeal for mercy. Mr Peel gave the poor girl an interview, and promised not only to present her petition to the King, but to make inquiries into her brother's case; and if there were circumstances in his favour, he would recommend a commutation of his sentence. The youth is now on board the *Dolphin*, at Chatham; and the affectionate sister waits in town for Mr Peel's decision.

Earl Talbot and family are in a state of the deepest distress, in consequence of the melancholy intelligence received from Vienna of the death of the Earl's eldest son, Lord Ingestrie, on Tuesday, the 23d ult. It appears that his Lordship was taking his usual ride in the park at Vienna, when the horse ran away with and threw him; he was taken up dead.

The Commissioners for building Churches in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, have made a second Report. Of the places to which ministers and manses have been offered, on condition that the existing churches shall be properly repaired and fitted

for divine service, five, it is said, are likely to fail in obtaining the expected benefit. Four churches, Toman-toul, Kinloch-Luichart, Croisk, and Plockton in Lochalsh, are to be completed before the end of the year. L.1500, to which the commissioners are limited for a church, manse, and appurtenances, is complained of as a scanty allowance; and little seems to have been done altogether; but for the current year, a secretary has got L.200, a clerk L.75, a law agent L.200, a superintending engineer, L.100, and surveyors L.745, 17s. 6d., making in all an expenditure for the year of L.1320, 17s. 6d.

2d.—DUNDEE.—David Balfour was executed at this place, for the murder of his wife in December last. The case of Balfour has excited great attention here, and the peculiar features of his mind have added to this feeling, as much as the singular manner in which he went about the sanguinary act for which he suffered. He seems, from the beginning, to have made up his mind to the fate which awaited him, in order that he might avenge himself for what his feelings had suffered from the unfaithfulness of one whom he loved. To the clergymen and others who have visited him since his return from Perth, he has behaved with propriety. Though ready to hear them, he showed a determination to judge for himself of what was contained in the sacred writings; and to several clergymen he expressed a difference in the opinions he held from them, and stated his reasons for doing so from the scriptures, in a distinct and rather forcible manner. He passed the previous night in a calm and tranquil state. He read aloud a number of chapters from the Old and New Testament, and requested the friend who sat with him to relieve him in this. Messrs Horsley, Murray,

and Macalister, were within his cell early in the day, and conversed and prayed with him several times. When it was announced that the executioner was at hand, he said, "I am ready and willing; when I am bound by him I am free." When he saw the executioner, he said, "Come forward; don't be afraid—you have no reason." Things being then arranged, he went down to the Guild-hall, accompanied by Messrs Horsley, Murray, Macalister, and Mr Dick, surgeon to the jail. He bowed most respectfully to the magistrates and council, commissioners of police, &c. assembled in the Hall, and proceeded to the scaffold, where he bowed to the multitude. Feeling somewhat weak, he requested the reverend Mr Macalister to give out a hymn he had previously selected, which was sung. The unfortunate man joined in the singing of the hymn with a clear and audible voice. He then addressed the multitude to this effect: "My friends, you may think my condition is bad, and so it is; but, bad as it is, I hope for mercy through the blood of my Saviour, and in his blood alone my hope rests. I hope that you will take warning from the death to which I have brought myself, and that the example that has been made of me will have a proper effect upon your minds. I regret that I have brought so much disgrace upon the town, and I am ready to die, and willing to die for it." One of the gentlemen observed that he had not spoken of the justice of his sentence as he proposed. He was instantly aware of it, and turning round, said, "My friends, I acknowledge that my sentence is just, that it is a righteous sentence, that it is proper I should die, for I have sinned against God and man, and have justly forfeited my life. Had I been in the judges' place, as I am now on the scaffold, I must have pronounced

the very same sentence on myself." After this, the reverend Mr Murray engaged in prayer, which was most impressive. When it was over, the devotional exercises were resumed, and drawn to a close. Those around him then took farewell of him, in doing which he said, "I hope, gentlemen, I shall meet with you all in Heaven." While the executioner was adjusting the fatal noose, he resigned himself to the operation with singular calmness and compliance. He stood for a short time seemingly engaged in prayer before he gave the signal, when the drop fell. His sufferings were seemingly of short duration, as he was comparatively slightly convulsed. The crowd assembled on the occasion was very great.

GENERAL ELECTION.

SOUTHWARK ELECTION. — The election for Southwark commenced on Wednesday morning, the 7th, at the Town-hall. At an early hour, the workmen were busy preparing the hustings in front of it. The crowd began to collect in considerable numbers about nine o'clock, but none of the candidates made their appearance till after ten. Shortly after this hour Sir Robert Wilson came up, in an open brouche, followed by several carriages, and accompanied in his own by several of his friends, among whom were his two daughters, and M. Lavalette, the latter of whom afterwards placed themselves at the window of Mr Thomas Wm. Farmer, from whence they could overlook the proceedings. His carriage was drawn by the crowd, the horses, as we understood, having been taken out near the Asylum, where he had met his friends. He was received with a loud and unequivocal expression of applause; not a hiss mingled with the cheers that almost rent the welkin. Before his carriage were exhibited a number of banners, display-

ing various devices and sentiments, among which were: "Wilson and Purity of Election!"—"Wilson and Trial by Jury!"—"Wilson and public Liberty!"—"Wilson the Friend of the People!" &c. His colours were of "Heaven's celestial blue."

Mr Calvert followed shortly after, and was also received with a strong expression of approbation. His colours were blue, and the inscriptions on the banners that graced his progress were, "Independence and Trade!"—"The 1832 Electors!"—"Parliamentary Reform."

Mr Polhill next drove up in a plain neat carriage; his colours were orange and purple. The inscriptions on his banners were "No Popery!"—"Trade and Commerce." His reception was of a much more equivocal character than that of his two rivals. A long and violent struggle ensued between the cheers and hisses of the opposing parties.

The number of electors in the year 1818 was about 3500, but that number is supposed to have received a considerable increase since that time in consequence of the new buildings in St George's Fields.

The noise having in some degree subsided, and order being restored, the usual preliminaries were gone through. —The writ for the return of two new members was read by one of Clutton and Carter's clerks, and also the act against bribery and corruption.

Mr Solomon Davis, in rising to propose C. Calvert, Esq., as a candidate for the representation of the borough, said he should be sorry if anything occurred to deprive the borough of that independence they had so nobly achieved on former occasions. Mr Calvert was the friend of them all, and had uniformly advocated every measure of improvement. (Yes, yes.) He had been an enemy to the slave trade, the corn bill, and the assessed

taxes. He (Mr D.) did not know any man more fit than Mr C. Calvert to represent them, and therefore he should propose C. Calvert, Esq. as their representative for the ensuing parliament.

Mr Ellis seconded this motion.

Mr Blackett then proposed Sir Robert Wilson.—Long before this gentleman had served them in Parliament, he had served them by victoriously fighting their battles abroad. He had already been tried, and found able and willing to serve them, and therefore they would try him again. If the electors did not now discharge their duty, they would have no right to complain of a corrupt parliament. —(Hurra.)

Mr Arrowsmith seconded the motion.

Mr Polhill was now proposed, and the motion seconded by two gentlemen, whose names we could not get. While this was going on, the whole was dumb show, not a syllable could be heard, there was nothing but the most discordant shouts, yells, and hisses.

Mr Calvert then addressed the electors. He thanked them sincerely for their former kindness in having returned him to three parliaments, and hoped for their effectual support again. He had always voted according to the wish of his constituents, when he could collect that wish, and such he conceived to be the duty of every representative.

Sir R. Wilson then addressed the meeting. He was received with much applause, and frequently greeted with the most cordial cheers in the course of a very eloquent speech. It was, he said, with a sentiment of pride and gratification that he saw the imposing phalanx of electors, who were now assembled. It was in 1818 that they had made him their leader against the High Tory party, and in which they

had so gloriously triumphed against the supporters of an inflated, dictatorial oligarchy; though they were told that to effect a change was impossible; that Bedlam was surely let loose among them, and that instead of winning a crown of glory, they would only earn contempt and degradation. Did the result prove that they were mad? After three days' contest, they enabled him to plant the banner of their independence on these hustings. In 1820, the same party, shattered, indeed, and broken up, but not sufficiently rebuked, made another attempt, under the standard of that able and experienced leader, Sir T. Turton. They were then again defeated. The same party, after a repose of five years, was now reascending from its grave; but these warriors would soon be sent again to their long home. They were vain enough to fancy that some of us were satiated with glory, that others were enervated with repose, and that our young men were not following the example of their fathers. (Bravo). It was not merely for the interest of Southwark or of England, but of the civilization of man, that their triumphs should be repeated and established on an immovable basis. (Great applause.)

Mr Polhill then addressed the meeting at considerable length, but, from the great noise and clamour which prevailed, we were unable to hear him.

The polling continued till the following Wednesday, when at half past nine a communication reached the High Bailiff from Mr Polhill's committee, stating that that gentleman had withdrawn from the contest. The polling was closed at eleven, and the High Bailiff announced Charles Calvert, Esq. and Sir R. Wilson, knight, duly elected, who having returned thanks, the assemblage dispersed.

YORKSHIRE.—The nomination of

candidates took place on Monday last, when Mr Bethell declining to proceed to a poll, Lord Milton, Mr Marshall, Mr Wilson, and Mr Duncombe, were declared duly elected.

CITY OF LONDON ELECTION.—Friday the 9th being appointed for the Common Hall of the Livery of London to elect the members of the representation of the city, at an early hour every avenue leading to the Guildhall was thronged by crowds, all anxious, and pressing for admission into the Hall; and at the same time, the streets were paraded by persons carrying banners, upon which were displayed, in large letters, various devices and inscriptions relating to the candidates.

At a quarter past one o'clock, the Lord Mayor appeared on the hustings, and was received with tumultuous cheering. He bowed, and retired to his chair. Mr Alderman Wood next presented himself, and his reception was very favourable indeed. Mr Alderman Thompson was received with much applause.

The reception of Mr Alderman Waithman was tumultuously favourable.

Mr Ward presented himself to the notice of the Livery, and was received with great cheering.

The Lord Mayor was put first, and his lordship's name was followed by those of Mr Alderman Wood, Mr Alderman Waithman, Mr Alderman Thompson, Mr Ward, and Mr Alderman Garratt.

On a show of hands, the Sheriffs decided that the majority was in favour of Messrs Waithman, Wood, Thompson, and the Lord Mayor. A poll was immediately demanded on behalf of Messrs Garratt and Ward.

The following was the state of the vote at the close of the poll on Saturday:

Mr Thompson,	. . .	992
Mr Waithman,	. . .	857

Mr Wood,	. . .	822
Mr Ward,	. . .	729
Lord Mayor,	. . .	700
Mr Garratt,	. . .	286

As soon as the numbers were declared, Mr Alderman Garratt came forward to address the Liverymen, but the hisses and groans with which he was received prevented him from being heard. He was at length understood to say, that he had never given a specific pledge to the Lord Mayor that he would not offer himself as a candidate for the city of London; what he had said had been completely misinterpreted; but, finding that that was the impression, he felt himself called upon to withdraw from the contest.

The other candidates then severally addressed the Livery, and the meeting dispersed.

SEVENTH AND LAST DAY.—Friday being the day which was to decide this hard-contested election, the interest excited was so great, that at an early hour Guildhall was much more crowded than it had been on any previous day of the election, and the nearer the hour approached, when the successful candidates were to be declared, the greater were the numbers assembled. The galleries were crowded with the female friends of the candidates, and other ladies, and some of them even ventured on the hustings. At half past three, the numbers were declared—

Thompson,	. . .	6483
Waithman,	. . .	5042
Ward,	. . .	4991
Wood,	. . .	4880
Lord Mayor,	. . .	4514

Mr Alderman Thompson addressed the meeting, but not a word could we catch, for the satisfaction of his friends was expressed in such continued bursts of applause, that before silence was obtained, the worthy candidate had concluded his speech.

Mr Alderman Waithman thanked the Liverymen for their honourable exertions, by which he had triumphed. It was not the triumph of the individual, but the triumph of principle. It was the more astonishing, as they had to combat against a prejudice which had been raised against him and Mr Wood on account of the Catholic question. They had shown, that whatever a man's trade might be, provided he possessed honour and integrity, they were able to choose him for their representative, for God had given the same abilities to shopkeepers as to others. They had taken his advice, and had brought up their friends to the poll, and thus had obtained one of the greatest victories that ever was achieved at a city election.

Mr Ward rose, but was unable to obtain a hearing.

Mr Alderman Wood said, though he stood not so high on the poll as he had done on the two former elections, yet he was the better pleased with himself. He had to struggle against a feeling which had been raised to his prejudice, on account of the Catholic question. He was as much attached to the Protestant Constitution as any present, but he was the friend of religious liberty. Neither Mr Thompson nor Mr Ward would give pledges that they would not deserve to be their representatives. The worthy Alderman then read some extracts from a speech of Mr Pitt on the Catholic question, and, after thanking the Livery for their support, retired from the hustings.

The Lord Mayor said, though he was unsuccessful, yet he was thankful to those who had supported him, and believed there never was an instance of a candidate losing his election with so large a number of votes. A cry of Popery had been raised against him, and many had refused

him their votes on that account ; besides this, a candidate had started up against him quite unexpectedly. He was sure Mr Garratt would afterwards regret this unhappy, he would almost say, unprincipled treatment. They had chosen representatives who would serve them with more ability, but not with more sincerity or ardour than he would have done, had he gone into Parliament. During the few months he had to hold his office in the city, he should do his duty, after which he should retire into private life. He then took leave of the Liverymen, and wished prosperity to the city of London, and withdrew. The meeting then dispersed.

RIOT AT CARLISLE.—On Tuesday last, a dreadful riot took place in Carlisle, during the canvass of Sir Philip Musgrave, late M.P. for that city. Having entered a yard in Milburne's Buildings, Shaddon Gate, with his friends, they were surrounded by the populace, who reproached the candidate for his vote on the corn laws, and on Mr Abercromby's motion respecting the representation of Edinburgh, and insisted on his giving a pledge for radical reform. After some parley, Sir P. and his friends got out of the yard into the street, but were there assailed by the mob with stones, &c. and all more or less injured. Major Wilde was brought to the ground by a blow from a stone on the head, and Sir P. was lamed, but got into a house with one or two friends, and fastened the door. Here they were kept prisoners for two or three hours; the Mayor and a large body of gentlemen and constables, who attempted to liberate them, being driven away by the missiles of the mob, who pelted them out of Shaddon Gate. Barnes, the police-officer, with a cocked pistol in his hand, and another person, got through the crowd, but were glad to escape back.

WESTMINSTER ELECTION.—Friday, the 9th, at twelve o'clock forenoon, Covent Garden Market presented a very animated scene, the High Bailiff, Arthur Morris, Esq. having appointed it for the election of members for Westminster.

At that hour, Sir Francis Burdett and Mr Hobhouse, with their committee, proceeded from the Rainbow Tavern to the hustings in front of the church.

The usual forms having been concluded,

The High Bailiff addressed the electors, and said he had called them together for the purpose of electing two members for the city of Westminster, and, he trusted, that, by their orderly conduct, his object would be facilitated.

Sir Francis Burdett and Mr Hobhouse were then nominated, without the slightest opposition.

Sir Francis Burdett, as soon as the cheering had subsided, addressed the electors at very great length, and dwelt upon those principles which he had always acted upon in Parliament, and from which he had never in any way deviated.

The honourable Baronet's speech was received with great cheering.

Mr Hobhouse then addressed the electors with great animation; and the election having fallen on them by the show of hands, thanks were voted to the High Bailiff, and the meeting dispersed.

IPSWICH, June 18.—The election terminated here yesterday, after one of the hardest struggles ever witnessed in this country. The influence of Government was never exercised with more vigour and directness than against the yellow candidates. The dock-yards were raked for voters; and those who were discharged were put on again, upon their promise of voting for Dundas and Mackinnon; and persons in

the army who are freemen of Ipswich, were brought here to vote for the blue candidates. On the other hand, the yellow party, which had been too confident of success in the first instance, and had neglected all the usual precautions, when they became pressed, displayed an activity which astonished their opponents and secured the election. Among their last voters were two persons from London, who were unable from extreme illness to get into the Town-Hall, and whose votes were consequently taken at the door of it by the returning officer. One of these had been bed-ridden for two years, but so hearty was he in the cause, that he cheered as he lay on the bed when he had given his vote. The expense of the last few days to all the candidates must have been enormous, for carriages and four, with single voters, arrived from the extremest points of the kingdom. The majority for Haldimand and Torrens, at the close of the poll, was eight; but the opposing candidates having demanded a scrutiny, some hours elapsed before the numbers were declared. The returning officers refused to grant a scrutiny, the applicants being unable to assign any sufficient reason for the demand. Mr Haldimand and Colonel Torrens were consequently declared duly elected. The chairing will take place to-morrow.

COVENTRY.—The poll has closed, and Heathcote and Fyler have been duly elected. The state of the poll was—

Heathcote,	1535	Ellice,	1242
Fyler,	1522	Moore,	1182

STATE OF POLLS.

Reading.		Dover.	
Monck,	580	Wilbraham,	1175
Spence,	492	Thomson,	746
Palmer,	488	Halcumb,	628
Wakefield,	366	Butterworth,	193
Two former elected.		Two former elected.	

Huntingdonshire.		Northampton.	
Mandeville,	968	Robinson,	1348
Fellowes,	911	Maberly,	1137
Russell,	858	Gunning,	1005
Two former elected.		Two former elected.	

Leicester.		Chester.	
Hastings,	2772	Belgrave,	830
Cave,	2677	Grosvenor,	760
Evans,	2063	Egerton,	742
Denman,	1802	Townshend,	661
Two former elected.		Two former elected.	

PRESTON.—The representation of this town was contested between its former representative, Mr Stanley, Mr Wood of Liverpool, on the Reform interest, Captain Barrie, R. N., on the Tory interest, and the notorious Cobbett. It lasted during the whole days allowed by law. Among the other extraordinary scenes that took place on the occasion, the following is one—

June 23.—A great tumult was heard at Mr Cobbett's door, and several persons exclaimed that the bludgeon-men were assaulting some persons who wanted to get in. At this moment the two bailiffs, who had been out, and in attempting to approach Mr Cobbett's door, received some violence, rushed from behind into the Mayor's box, accompanied by Mr Swainson, of Captain Barrie's Committee.

The Mayor's Bailiff.—Mr Mayor, Mr Mayor, I never saw such an infuriated mob in my life—they are breaking in; we shall all be killed—I'll not stop here to be killed.

Mr Swainson (the blood pouring from his mouth)—There, there, I said how it would be—it is all Wood's mob.

Dr Crompton.—False, false! Mr Wood has no mob. (*Great uproar.*)

Captain Barrie and his friends now loudly charged Mr Wood and his party with hiring those bludgeon-men, and they as stoutly denied it. Amidst a discordant tumult of voices, the coarsest reproaches were heard passing be-

tween the two parties—"infamous"—"villainous"—"set of scoundrels"—"shame, shame." Cries of "false,"—"villains," &c.—*tremendous uproar*—"Adjourn, adjourn."—"Call in the military."

In the meantime, Captain Barrie, whose feelings were evidently roused to the highest pitch of excitement, swung himself about, and roared out in such a way, that some of his friends got about him under the impression that he would absolutely jump from his box to wreak vengeance on Mr Wood, on whom he fixed his eyes with the fiercest expression. The Captain's hands were held for a moment, he bit his lips, stamped, threw himself about, and at last, striking vehemently the front of his box, said, "D——n ! that we can't be at 'em !"

The Mayor now dispatched a messenger for the military. In less than half an hour a party of dragoons under the command of Captain Pollhill arrived, when the bludgeon-armed ruffians fled in all directions. The moment the Mayor learned the arrival of the dragoons, he proceeded with his associates and constables to that part of the hustings (Cobbett's side) where the riotous club-men had taken shelter—had them taken into custody, and conveyed to the House of Correction.

26.—The poll closed this day, at three o'clock, when Mr Stanley and Mr Wood were declared duly elected; and the ceremony of chairing took place immediately afterwards. The numbers at the final close of the poll were, Stanley, 2944—Wood, 1970—Barrie, 1652—Cobbett, 995.

At the conclusion of the election, Cobbett addressed the electors, and assured them he would petition against the return of Mr Stanley and Mr Wood; and concluded by saying—"As to the colour *green* (Mr Wood's), it is like a deleterious plant that poisons all things on which it sheds its venomous hue—an *evergreen*—a deadly yew—a night-

shade; but we will destroy this composition of *green weeds* and *orange flowers* (alluding to the coalition between Stanley and Wood.) I'll pluck it up by the roots.—Lord Derby was not content with bringing in one Member, his dandy son, but he must hook on a second. If this connexion stands—if this poor creature, Wood, continues your member, Earl Derby will be able to lay his claws on your borough, as easily as any other titled tyrant rules any close borough in England—so that poor Wood, like a young bear, has all his sorrows before him; he is not able to do any good for you: he is a timid trembling creature, and incompetent to serve the interests of Preston. I have the real majority of votes—the hearts of the people.—I thank you from the bottom of my heart. The public spirit of the town of Preston is greater than I ever met with, even in America. I never can be sufficiently grateful to you. I never shall forget the honest and independent town of Preston. Your show of hands, the very first day of the election, proved to me and the world, that I was the man of your choice. Good night."

WESTMORELAND ELECTION.

Appleby, June 22, 8 o'clock in the morning.

The friends of Mr Brougham have been pouring into Appleby during the night and all this morning in great numbers, and though they are not so conspicuous with their flags and ribbands as the partizans of the Lowthers, they are still not scantily provided with them. The prevailing mottoes on the flags of the rival candidates are on the one side, "No Popery," "Lowther and Loyalty," "The Lowthers, the friends of the Constitution and of the county of Westmoreland," &c. and on the other, "Brougham and Independence," "Brougham and No Slavery," "Brougham, the poor man's friend,"

"Brougham, the friend of education," and last and best of all, "Preserve your loyalty, maintain your rights," the inscription placed by the late Earl of Thanet on an obelisk which he erected in the centre of Appleby.

Lord Lowther and his brother Colonel Lowther made their appearance amid loud cheers on the hustings. They were attended by Sir P. Musgrave, M.P., W. Holmes, Esq. M.P. the Right Hon. J. Becket, M.P., Mr J. H. Lowther, M.P., Colonel Wilson of Dallam Tower, Colonel Maude, and various other gentlemen of rank and fortune in the county. They took their station on the right of the under-sheriff, Mr Briggs. Mr Brougham advanced to the hustings, amid the cheers of his supporters; his band was playing "New brooms sweep clean." He is attended by J. C. Curwen, Esq. M.P., the Hon. Mr Tufton, M.P., James Brougham, Esq. M.P., — Barham, Esq. M.P., Mr Whar-ton, the late member for Beverley, Sir J. Graham, M.P., Messrs Wybergh, Wakefield, Crackenthorpe, Crompton, Shepherd, and others. A station was reserved for him on the left of the under-sheriff.

Mr Carus Wilson, M.P. then addressed the freeholders, and begged leave to nominate as one of their representatives in the ensuing Parliament, the Lord Viscount Lowther. (*Cheers.*)

Mr E. Wilson, of Abbott-hall, seconded the nomination of Lord Lowther.

Colonel Wilson, of Dallam Tower, came forward amid a deafening outcry, and proposed to them as their representative a gentleman who was already known to them, and who had twice had the honour of being sent by them to the Commons House of Parliament.—(Cries of "No, not by us, but by his father.") He proposed to them the Hon. Henry Cecil Lowther as a fit man to represent them; and

he made that proposition, thinking that his gallant friend would have their support in the present contest.

Colonel Maude seconded the nomination of Colonel Lowther.

Mr Wybergh then came forward amid loud cheerings and cries of "Brougham for ever!" He was extremely sorry, he said, to be called on a third time to come forward in opposition to the two late sitting members, and to propose to the freeholders to elect his excellent friend Henry Brougham, as one of the Knights of the Shire for the county of Westmoreland—a measure, which was calculated to secure their independence for ever.

Mr Crackenthorpe came forward with pride to second the nomination just made to them.

Mr Brougham then came forward, amid the cheers of the blues and the outcries of the yellows:—The Colonel, in his present address, had told them, and had told them very truly, that he (Mr Brougham) was already returned to Parliament, and had asked them, why, being there, he wanted to have any, and what thing further. He would give the gallant Colonel an answer to his question. For himself he wanted nothing; for it was not his interest that was at stake in the present contest; he had nothing more to do with it than the humblest freeholder in Westmoreland (cheers). But as the Hon. Colonel wanted so much to know what more he would be at, he would tell him and the freeholders together, though the latter knew it already, that he wanted to see the county of Westmoreland free and independent, (loud cheers). He wanted to see an end put to the haughty and intolerable domination of the Lord Lieutenant, by which, in Westmoreland alone, of all the English counties, one man, and he, too, a peer, a placeman, and a Lord-Lieutenant, named two of his family as its representatives, just as if the county were one of his close

rotten boroughs (loud cheers.) He knew that they had the sense of the resident clergy against their cause (cheers); he knew that they had the sense of a much more powerful, though not more active body of persons, namely, the attorneys, against their cause; he knew that they had the sense of the resident placemen and pensioners, unfortunately a very numerous body in Westmoreland, against their cause,—he knew that they had against their cause, wandering up and down the county, those who were incapacitated by Act of Parliament from giving their votes at elections,—he knew that they had against their cause the collectors of stamps and of taxes, and other placemen and pensioners, who were running up and down canvassing against them, though they were prohibited by law, under heavy penalties, from giving their votes against them. (Loud cheers, and cries of Shame.) The honourable Colonel, however, who was proposed as a candidate, went further than the honourable Colonel who proposed him. He said that the majority of the resident gentry was against their cause. He (Mr Brougham) did not think that it was so; but at any rate, neither the honourable Colonel, nor any one else, had ventured to say that the majority of resident freeholders was against their cause. Did they then mean to say, that the gentry alone were to decide the election, and that the freeholders were to have no voice in it? Surely not. He (Mr Brougham) said, that the freeholders, the good honest gray-coats of Westmoreland, represented the sense of the county (cheers); and he repeated, that if they compared the list of resident freeholders on both sides, by the returns of 1820, and took out every non-resident vote, they would find there was a clear majority of forty on the side of the blues. (Cheers.) If their opponents doubted whether this majority was on their side at the last

election, they would have no objection to try the experiment again at the present election. Let their opponents, then, make a bargain that no non-resident votes should be taken at present, and it would be soon seen in whose favour the result would be. (Cheers.) But that their opponents would do no such thing, he well knew; for, from all the points of the compass, be they more or less remote, there were hurrying to Appleby, men who had no connexion with the county, either by residence or by property, except in the 40s. freehold, which gave them a right to vote. (Cheers, and considerable disapprobation, mingled with cries of “No Popery.”) He heard from that quarter where an unanimous sense appeared in favour of their opponents—he meant the quarter where the yellow band was situated, a cry of “No Popery.” Those gentlemen appeared to have been well disciplined, for never did he see men cheer more cordially, or take off their hats more harmoniously, than those self-same musicians. (Laughter.) He heard from the band, he said, the cry of “No Popery,” and he had often before heard that base cry used by some who knew better, with a view of influencing others who knew no better. (Cheers.) He had never, however, heard of an election in which a candidate had ventured to come to the poll with that senseless, bigoted, hypocritical, and inflammatory cry blazoned on his banners. (Cries of “Never; it’s a great shame.”) Who were they, he should like to know, who had got up this cry in their peaceful county? Those who called themselves the friends and supporters of Mr Pitt—those who owed to him their titles, their honours, and their places; and yet, that minister, if he had been alive, would have been the minister above all others against whom that cry must have been directed, he having resigned his office in consequence of the clamour which was raised to pre-

vent him from giving, as he desired, equal rights and civil and religious liberty, to millions of his fellow-subjects. (Loud cheers.) Whom, he would ask, did the University of Oxford choose as its Chancellor? A "No Popery" man? An enemy of the Catholic question? No such thing; but Lord Granville, who went out with Mr Pitt, when he could not carry the whole question of Catholic emancipation, and who afterwards went out in 1807 with Lord Grey, when he could not succeed in carrying a part of it, and who had ever since been a steady and consistent friend to the same cause. (Cheers.) What better friend of Protestant ascendancy could there be found than the University of Cambridge? And yet within these few days that learned University had beat down the infamous yell of "No Popery," and had returned Lord Palmerston to Parliament on the avowed principle of his supporting the Catholic claims! Everywhere, at every election, had that monotonous and dismal yell been defeated and put down; and it had in consequence now sought refuge in Westmoreland, where, thank God, they were going to give it another beating. (Loud cheers, and cries of "We will.") No Popery—what did the howl mean, when yelled forth by those who now made use of it?—Did it mean any fear for the Established Church, or some apprehension of the poor old Pope being brought over to this country? No such thing; it meant, no retrenchment,—it meant, no attacks upon jobs, and sinecures, and unnecessary expenditure,—and above all, in Westmoreland, it meant, no independence and no blues. And what did the cry mean, that the church was in danger? It meant that "place is in danger, my pension in danger," and as applied by the Lord Lieutenant of Westmoreland, it meant, "my domination over this county is in danger; my power of naming its two

representatives and treating it like a rotten borough, (A voice—"Like Winchelsea?") that is in danger, (Great cheering.) He had now given them several instances of persons of undeniable orthodoxy in church and state supporting this great question, and being assailed as they were by the base outcry of No Popery. He would now give them other and higher authority for it. He would give them the authority of the sovereign himself. The King had declared by a proclamation, which he had published in Hanover, that no difference should be made between man and man there in civil liberties and in temporal rights, on account of religious belief. (Great cheering.) He should not be acting caudally by Mr Carus Wilson and his friends if he concealed from them, that if they had not work enough on their hands now, they should have work enough on their hands at some other day. He confidently expected that their exertions and their good cause would give them the victory on the present occasion; but if they failed in this their third time of trial, let him remind them that the third time was not the last (cheers); and that again and again, so long as Westmoreland was Westmoreland, the blue cause should be fought till it was made triumphant. (Loud cheers). But let them not make it necessary to bring the matter to a struggle a fourth time; let them do it now, this good third time, which they all knew was considered lucky, and let them convince the world that, in spite of parsons, patronage, placemen, pensions, tax-gatherers, attorneys, and collectors—in spite of colliers, weavers, shipwrights, ropers, and carpenters—the honest gray-coats of Westmoreland—whether the Colonel called them gentry or not—were determined to oppose his father, and to achieve the independence of their county. (Great cheering).

A show of hands was then taken by

the Under Sheriff in favour of the three candidates. The show was in favour of Mr Brougham, in the proportion of at least six to one. The hands held up in favour of the two Lowthers were nearly equal. The Under Sheriff declared that the show of hands was in favour of Colonel Lowther and Mr Brougham. Lord Lowther instantly demanded a poll. The Under Sheriff appointed it to commence at two o'clock.

Eighth Day—Friday.

Lord Lowther . . .	1925
Colonel Lowther . . .	1851
Mr Brougham . . .	1353

Final Close of the Poll—Saturday.

Lord Lowther . . .	2697
Colonel Lowther . . .	2024
Mr Brougham . . .	1378
Majority in favour of Colonel Lowther,	646

SOMERSETSHIRE ELECTION.

ILCHESTER, *Tuesday, 29th.*—The High Sheriff, addressing himself to Mr Hunt, said he had a question to put to that gentleman. It was this—whether, from all that had passed, he thought he had any chance of success? and he put it to him as a freeholder and a gentleman, whether, if he thought he had no chance, he considered himself justified in putting the county to any further trouble and expense? (*Hear.*) Of his own trouble he thought nothing. It was not on that account he spoke, but for the sake of the freeholders of this extensive county.

Mr Hunt.—Mr High Sheriff, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Gentlemen of the Law, of whom I see a great number, perhaps it would become me to say that I have no right to answer that question. I certainly have no right to answer for the freeholders of the county. I cannot take upon me to trifle with their rights by closing the poll. If, Sir, you think that the majority of the freeholders have polled, and there is no

use in keeping the poll open any longer, it is at your option to put an end to the election; but it must depend entirely upon your discretion. Whatever be your decision, I assure you that I shall bow to it. You have acted throughout in the most gentlemanly and impartial manner, and there is nothing I can do with propriety that I will not do to prove my sense of such treatment. (*Cheers.*) Perhaps, if you find that my friends do not come up, you may exercise the right of closing at once, but I shall stay here as long as they come up, and do my duty to them. (*Cries of "Bravo!" and shouts of applause.*) I have been attacked, most grossly attacked, by the other candidates, and by certain individuals, who, when I stood on the first day in this court, drowned my words in clamour, and vented against me the most contemptuous and menacing language. You must all be aware that much took place on that day that might have been spared; and you must also admit that I did not cast the first stone. I have said nothing of either of the gentlemen who are candidates with me that I have reason to regret, except that allusion to Mr Dickinson, for which I have already apologized; and how have I been treated by them? Have I not been insulted by them in the persons of my freeholders, whom they stigmatized as dishonest men because they have voted for me? Have they not dishonoured their characters as legislators and magistrates, by encouraging the violation of the laws which they have made, and are bound to administer with justice? (*Loud cheers.*) As to Sir Thomas Lethbridge, I charged him with a dereliction of his public duty in refusing to support your petitions. I made no personal allusions to him until he attacked me; and there are some insults which it is not in the nature of man to bear without retaliating. I retaliated.

(Cheers.) He said he knew me when I was an honest man, he recollected me when I wore a snock-frock. (A laugh.) He has spoken of the qualifications for a county member, and amongst them he has mentioned that of high blood. Now, suppose I asked who his grandfather was, and was asked in answer, whether I had not heard of a foundling who had been found in a ditch, wrapped up in a pair of leather breeches, which gave him a name that was afterwards curtailed and improved, and adopted by his successors? (Loud laughter.) With respect to Mr Dickinson, I have done all I could do draw from him the substance of his threat to me, but in vain. I shall say nothing of what I have heard of his private history, although I have it upon other than newspaper report. He did not treat me with similar delicacy in my absence. In the House of Commons he reviled and abused me while I was in that jail (pointing to the prison.) He and his colleague denied the truth of everything I complained of. They abused and vilified me when I had not the power of answering them, having the double check upon me of confinement as to my own person, and parliamentary privilege as to his. (Cheers.) My crime, I declare before the God who looks down upon us, was no greater than that which I am now committing. It was just for making such a speech as you have just heard. My brother candidates cannot expect to be forgotten.—Can I forget this treatment? No. I might forget it, if it merely regarded myself; but my family—(Here the firmness of Mr Hunt's voice for a moment was broken, and many in court were affected.) They played with me as a cat would with a mouse. They put me to my family and pulled me back, and put me again to them and pulled me back. Three times did they torture me and them. If ever I forget it, may I forget my-

self! If my poor boys ever forget it, may they forget their father! (Cheering; a great many in Court were in great agitation.) I have the clothes which I wore in my prison; I wore them on the day of nomination, and I shall wear them on all occasions that remind me of my degradation and sufferings. (Loud and continued cheering.) If I fail now, I shall see you again at the next election. I shall go home and look after my blacking (cheers), and prepare to meet my antagonists again. As long as that gaol stands there, shall I visit this town, and renew in the breasts of my oppressors the recollection of the scenes that passed there. (Loud and long-continued cheering.) Mr Hunt concluded by again expressing his acknowledgments to the High Sheriff.

The Sheriff, addressing Mr Hunt with the greatest respect—a feeling in which every person in court (even the lawyers) participated—said that the poll should open next day at the usual hour.

At the final close of the poll, which lasted several days, the numbers were,—Mr Dickinson, 1812; Sir T. Lethbridge, 1719; Hunt, 309.

NORTHUMBERLAND ELECTION.—

This was one of the most expensive and arduous contests almost ever known; and was remarkable on account of Lord Howick, who is a whig, joining interests with Mr Bell, a tory, and Mr Beaumont a radical, joining interest with Mr Liddell, also a tory. At the close of the poll on the eleventh day, Saturday, the numbers were—Mr Liddell, 1458—Mr Bell, 1313—Mr Beaumont, 1201—Lord Howick, 952.

★
AFFAIR OF HONOUR.—On Saturday last, a meeting took place between Mr Lambton, M.P. and Mr Beaumont, one of the candidates for Northumberland. The particulars of this affair we give as they have reached us, without

vouching for their correctness. It appears that at the close of the poll on Friday, while Lord Howick was addressing the electors, Mr Beaumont remarked, that he was prompted by Mr Lambton, who happened to be standing by his side. Mr Lambton denied the charge, which was reiterated by Mr Beaumont in a manner approaching the lie direct. Mr Lambton instantly left the hustings, followed by Mr Beaumont; but both these gentlemen were immediately taken into custody, and bound over to keep the peace within the county. It was arranged, however, that the parties should meet in the county of Durham, and, accordingly, on Saturday morning they proceeded, attended by their seconds, a few miles to the north of Belford, where, after an exchange of shots, without effect, the seconds interfered, and Mr Beaumont having apologized for his expressions, the parties left the ground.

SURREY ELECTION.—One of the former members, Mr Holme Sumner, after many days' hard struggling, was obliged to abandon the contest with Mr Palmer, a candidate started by the independent interest; and the other old member, Mr Dennison and Mr Palmer, were declared duly returned.

IRISH ELECTIONS.—The elections in Ireland proceed with great spirit. In Waterford, Lord G. Beresford is at the bottom of the poll; Mr Dawson, the liberal candidate, is at the head of it in Louth; Mr Brownlow, who, in spite of his connexions and his prepossessions, yielded to conviction in favour of the equal rights of his Catholic countrymen, has been opposed in Armagh by a Colonel Verner, but is considerably above his opponent. Both in Waterford and Louth the tenants are said to be voting against their landlords, to an extent which leaves no doubt of the result. The voters

made for election purposes are turning against those who calculated on using them as passive tools.

Note.—For both the above counties the Catholic interest triumphed.

JULY.

HIGHLAND SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND.

3d.—EDINBURGH.—This national and patriotic institution held their usual half yearly meeting, in pursuance of the charter, on Monday last. His Grace the Duke of Gordon, the venerable and much respected President of the Society, took the chair a little after one o'clock; by which hour a very numerous meeting had assembled, including a great proportion of the members distinguished for rank, property, and influence, at present in Edinburgh.

The Society then proceeded to the election of new members, when the following gentlemen, having been severally balloted for, were duly admitted, viz.—

Charles Ferguson, Esq. younger of Kilkerran, advocate

John Herries Maxwell, Esq. of Munches

Peter Wedderburn, Esq. of Newgrange
Thomas Haggart, Esq. of Bantaskine
John Yates, Esq. of Woodville, Devonshire, and of Shuna in the county of Argyle

Kenneth Macpherson, Esq. Member of the Hon. House of Assembly, Jamaica

Robert Clerk Rattray, Esq. younger of Craighall Rattray, advocate

William Robertson, Esq. younger of Kinlochmoidart, advocate

Alexander Smollet, Esq. younger of Bonhill, advocate

Angus Fletcher, Esq. of Dunans

Archibald Campbell, Esq. of Glendaruel, his Majesty's 42d Regiment, or Royal Highlanders

Robert Grant, Esq. of Kincorth, Morayshire

John Fletcher, Esq. of Bernice

Alexander Chalmers, Esq. of Cluny and Knockorth

James Welsh, Esq. of Earlsbaugh, Dumfries-shire

William Dudgeon, Esq. merchant, Leith

Alexander Scott, Esq. of the Iron Foundry, Dumfries

Robert Hoseason, Esq. of Mossbank, Shetland

Robert Lyall, Esq. factor for Sir James Carnegie of Southesk, Bart.

George Watson, Esq. portrait painter, Edinburgh

John Beith, Esq. banker, Campbelltown

Dougald Sinclair, Esq. of Kilcamaig.

The Secretary reported the proceedings of the Directors since the anniversary meeting in January, and called the attention of the members to the premiums offered by them for encouraging agriculture and internal improvement in Scotland in the present year, from the liberal sum placed at their disposal by the Society. He recapitulated the different classes and subdivisions of those premiums, by reference to the list on the table, printed for the use of the members, and for distribution in the country, and published in the different newspapers.

Mr Small Keir, of Kinmonth, adverted particularly to the premiums offered for encouraging the manufacture of strawplait, in imitation of the Leghorn bonnets and hats. The premiums were this year offered for specimens of the best manufacture, and to the actual workers; but it had also been the intention of the Directors to offer encouragement for raising in this country the plant cultivated in Italy for plait; but they were deficient in infor-

mation as to the particular plant, and the mode of treatment after the straw is cut. They had since taken measures to obtain this, and some information had already been received, through the obliging medium of Lord Lynedoch, while another member of the Society, who is just now travelling in Italy, had procured a quantity of the seed, with information as to the mode of culture, and subsequent treatment of the straw.

The Duke of Gordon said, he highly approved of these premiums, and observed, that probably some useful information would be obtained from Bedfordshire, where the manufacture of straw-plait is carried on to a great extent. His Grace also mentioned, with reference to the premiums for raising the *Pinus Sylvestris* from proper seed, that in his forest of Glenmore, in Lord Fife's at Mar Lodge, and in some others in those quarters, seed of excellent quality, and in any quantity, from the natural grown pine, could readily be obtained; although they had been hitherto neglected, and the seed had been collected from plantations made in the low country. It was also communicated to the meeting, that Professor Keyser of Christiana had offered to procure for the Society a quantity of seed from Norway, and a small parcel for the members had been ordered accordingly.

Mr Robert Graham reported to the Society the proceedings of the Committee appointed for arranging the General Show of Stock at Glasgow, and stated, that though this first year must be considered in the shape of an experiment, as being entirely new at that place, still it was an experiment founded upon several years' successful experience here, and one which was to be made there in consequence of being called for by the country, and not proposed before they were ready to receive it.—From the farther proceedings of

the Committee since the last general meeting, they were more than ever convinced of the advantage of these exhibitions, in the more extended form; and, according to the best information they could procure, the ensuing agricultural meeting at Glasgow would probably be one of the most interesting which has yet been presented in Scotland.

The Committee have been engaged in framing the necessary regulations for the show, in which they have been guided very much by the opinions of the noblemen and gentlemen connected with that part of the country, who have entered zealously into the measures likely to forward the views of the Society. By the same advice, the 27th of September has been fixed for the exhibition.

Mr Fergusson of Woodhill, as Deputy Convener of the Committee on the Veterinary Lectures, expressed his sincere regret for the continued indisposition of Dr Barclay, in which sentiment he was sure all would participate who knew the zealous endeavours of that gentleman, and the aid of his scientific skill, which were so readily given in promoting the establishment of these lectures, which were intimately connected with comparative anatomy, a department of medical science in which the doctor ranks so high.—Mr Fergusson reported, in very favourable terms, the success of the last course—the number of farriers who attended had been doubled from the year preceding, and the abilities and zeal of Mr Dick, the lecturer, warranted every opinion formerly expressed, and every encouragement hitherto bestowed. He moved that the usual sum be allowed for those lectures in the session of 1826-7, which being seconded by Sir Robert Keith Dick, Bart. was voted accordingly.

Before sitting down, Mr Fergusson took occasion to notice a proposal of

Mr Dick with respect to the establishment of an hospital in Edinburgh for injured or diseased animals, and of which he mentioned that Mr Dick intended soon to put a prospectus in circulation, requesting noblemen and gentlemen to give it their attention and support, should it meet with their approbation.

The proceedings of the Committee on Machinery were reported by Mr Graham Dalryell, Convener of that Committee. It appeared that since last general meeting, several ingenious articles had been submitted—among these the model of a Pile Engine or machine for driving piles, by Alexander Petrie, millwright at Orchardfield, Leith Walk. This model the Committee, and particularly the members who were practical engineers, had thought very ingenious, and they had in consequence recommended a reward of Twenty Pounds.—Two models of Reaping Machines had also been submitted, one by Mr John Kirkwood of Tranent, of which the East Lothian Agricultural Society had approved so much, as to have resolved to have one made upon the operating scale, and to have trial made of it in the ensuing harvest. The other model was by Mr Andrew Jackson at Torphin, near West Calder. Farther, Mr James Watt, of Biggar, had submitted the model of a cart, on a new construction, in which he proposes to lower the centre of gravity, by adopting a bent axle, and to retard the descent down a declivity, when loaded, by a self-acting friction drag operating on the circumference of the wheel. In regard to the last mentioned models, the Committee had not yet had an opportunity of making any final report. On the motion of Sir John Hay, Bart. seconded by Sir Henry Steuart, Bart. the reward of L.20 to Alexander Petrie, for his Pile Engine, was confirmed.

Connected with the subject of models of machinery, Mr Russell, Convener of the Committee for providing proper accommodation for the Society, mentioned that the apartments for models were now ready—that such models of machines and implements connected with agriculture as were in possession of the Society would be forthwith placed there, and additions made to the collection from time to time, as opportunities offered, either by models presented for exhibition, by donations, or by those for which premiums were voted. Among those presented since last meeting was a Hainault scythe, with handle and hook complete, made by Mr Chaloner of the Bedburn iron works, near Bishop Auckland, Durham, which was considered a very perfect specimen of this implement.

Mr Linning of Colzium observed, that Admiral Sir David Milne had some time ago suggested to the Society the practicability and advantage of applying steam navigation to the conveyance of cattle and sheep, a suggestion which was favourably received, but not followed up by any measure of encouragement on the part of the Society, as companies were soon afterwards proposed for a similar purpose. What progress had yet been made he was not aware, but he had recently received a letter on the subject from a friend of his, an intelligent gentleman of Devonshire, Mr Yates of Woodville, who had been this day admitted a member of the Society, and who wished the attention of this meeting to be directed to the subject. Mr Yates has recently purchased the island of Shuna, in Argyleshire, where he had last year no fewer than thirty acres of as good turnip as could be raised in England, on which he had fattened cattle and sheep fit for the market; but he naturally complains of the hardship which must

be felt by all proprietors of Highland estates, of not being able to convey stock expeditiously, and without injury, to market, after it is rendered fit for the butcher. He suggests the propriety of doing so by means of steam vessels, and states his readiness to subscribe liberally to any company that might be formed for the purpose. Mr Linning, after having read Mr Yates's letter, moved that the Society remit to the Directors to consider of offering a premium for the best constructed vessel for the purpose in question; Mr Downie of Appin seconded the motion, and a remit was made to the Directors accordingly.

Mr Thomas Thomson, from the Committee on the Gaelic Dictionary, after expressing his regret on account of the absence of Mr Mackenzie, chairman of the Committee, from indisposition, stated to the meeting, that this work, which had engaged so much attention, was in a state of great forwardness. He said the Society had been fortunate in the selection of the Reverend Mr Mackay to attend to its final revision and superintendence at press; the printing was far advanced; and he laid on the table the first volume, containing the Gaelic-English portion, from the letters A. to P., inclusive, as printed at the University Press; but the Committee having determined not to publish a part until the whole was completed on the same systematic and comprehensive plan, this part would not be given to the public until the other volume was also ready for delivery.

The Rev. Dr John Campbell, Secretary of the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, laid on the table as a present from that venerable institution, copies of the quarto Bible, and octavo New Testament and Psalter in Gaelic.—After a report of the General Assembly of the church upon this translation, with their de-

liverance, had been read, Lord Macdonald rose to express his sense of the obligations conferred upon the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and all connected with them, by the work which had just been presented; and on his Lordship's motion, the thanks of the Society were voted to the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, for the communication now made. On the motion of Sir Henry Jardine, the volumes were ordered to be placed in the Society's Library.

Mr Innes of Stow, Treasurer of the Society, called the attention of the meeting to a pamphlet now on the table, entitled "Moral Statistics of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, compiled from Returns received by the Inverness Society for the Education of the Poor in the Highlands."—He had no hesitation in pronouncing this a most interesting document, and the statistical details in it were founded upon most minute and authentic investigations. It was therefore, with much regret that he felt constrained to report, on the part of the Directors, that the Society was not authorized by its charter and precedents to vote any portion of its own funds in aid of the praiseworthy objects suggested in the report. Mr Innes moved that the report should lie on the table, and a suitable answer be made to Mr Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth, who had transmitted the report on behalf of the Society at Inverness; which were ordered accordingly.

Mr Linning, Secretary to the Incorporated Association of Contributors to the national Monument of Scotland, stated, that it was with the highest satisfaction that he had it now in his power to communicate that the national monument was actually commenced. Thus begun, the public spirit and patriotism of the

country would not permit this undertaking to remain unfinished, which, when completed, would remain a lasting monument of the glory of the country.

The Secretary was authorized to convey the thanks of the Society to various institutions and individuals, for books presented for the library since last meeting; and the other ordinary business having been disposed of, on a motion of Lord Macdonald, seconded by Sir John Hay, Bart. the thanks of the meeting were voted, amidst great applause, to the Duke of Gordon, President of the Society, not only for his conduct in the chair, and great attention to the business of the day, but also for the interest which his Grace always takes in the prosperity of the institution, and in promoting its views and interests on every favourable occasion.

The noble Duke expressed his acknowledgments in very appropriate terms, and the meeting adjourned.

3d. — LONDON, — DRURY-LANE THEATRE. — Monday, the annual meeting of the proprietors of Drury-Lane Theatre was held in the Saloon, to receive the report of the sub-committee. It was announced that Mr Bish had become lessee of the theatre for fourteen years, at a rent of L.11,250. Mr Calcraft stated, in the course of the meeting, that the whole debt due by Mr Elliston to the theatre was L.5700, of which L.3000 was actual loss during the last season. Mr Elliston, who was present, addressed the proprietors, and expressed his intention of visiting America, for which he had received a most liberal offer. He declared that he felt no anxiety respecting himself, but he was desirous that his son, who had expended a part of his private fortune on the theatre, and above all, that his creditors, who were deprived, by his ceasing to be lessee, of all prospect of being paid in full,

should receive the consideration of the proprietors. Mr Price, the American manager, is to have the general direction of the theatre, under the new lessee. Mr Wallack will continue stage-manager.

MELANCHOLY EVENT ON MALVERN HILL.—A party of friends, among whom were the eldest son and three daughters of Joseph Hill, Esq. of Lindridge on the borders of Gloucestershire, and several other young ladies, who were on a visit to them, had agreed to form a gipsy party, to perambulate the beautiful range of Malvern hills, which commence about two miles from Mr Hill's residence, and extend beyond Great Malvern, in Worcestershire. They were accompanied by a servant man, with a light cart, furnished with provisions, &c. for their use during their anticipated agreeable excursion. About three o'clock, in the afternoon, they had reached the Worcestershire beacon, on which is a building erected by Lady Harcourt, intended for the use of persons walking on the hills, and to shelter them from the "pitiless pelting storm." But, alas! it was no protection to them. The air looked tempestuous, a storm came on suddenly, the young ladies were very much alarmed at the vivid flashes of lightning which so rapidly succeeded each other, and roaring peals of thunder, which seemed to shake the foundation of the rocks on which they stood. The building is of stone, and the roof covered with iron; there was a stone table in the middle of the room, and seats on each side, with a window opposite the door-way; the party were inside it. Miss Eliza Hill, her sister Johanna, and Miss Woodward, from Hereford, were seated at the table, the others walking about. Miss Margaret Hill, a young lady about 15 years of age, being much alarmed, was looking out of the door-way to see if the

storm had passed, when she observed the electric fluid (which no doubt was attracted by the iron roof) appearing as a mass of fire rolling along the hill, and approaching their retreat; she attempted to run out, but was instantly thrown with violence to the ground; her shoes, and part of her dress, much burnt; her brother, who was near, suffered much the same. The electric fluid entered at the door, shivered the stone table to atoms, and many large stones in the wall, and passed through the window, removing the window frame and stone work about it. Two of the unfortunate young ladies, Miss Eliza Hill and Miss Woodward, were instantly struck dead. Miss Johanna appeared in the same state; medical aid being procured, and some signs of life appearing, she was bled, and removed to the Unicorn inn, at Malvern. She has not spoken since, and the medical gentlemen think there is but little chance of her recovery. The three were all burnt on the face, neck, and breast, the hair burnt off one side of the head, and part of their clothes destroyed. The dead bodies were removed to a house at St Anne's Well, where a coroner's inquest was expected to be held. All the other ladies were in a slight degree injured by the electric fluid, and are much distressed in mind, and keep their beds.

5th.—DREADFUL AND DESTRUCTIVE FIRES AT LIVERPOOL.—On Wednesday, shortly before midnight, fire was observed to issue from the extensive warehouse of Messrs Aspinall and Knowles, sail-makers, Salthouse dock, corner of Orford street, and which adjoined other warehouses, all of them containing much valuable property. Offices and rooms in the premises were occupied by Mr C. Morall, Mr Gillies, and by Mr Ryley, sail-maker. The fire-bells in the different stations were rung, and in a short time the adjacent ground was covered by a

large assemblage. Several engines arrived ; but the devouring element, fed by masses of combustible matter, soon defied all exertions to arrest its progress in the warehouse where it commenced. It found its way to the adjoining warehouses of Messrs Rankin and Co. ship-chandlers, Orford street, and the warehouse also adjoining, fronting Salthouse dock ; and about the same time, the intensity of the flames ignited the large warehouse at the opposite corner of Orford street, belonging to Mr Gibbon, the window frames and shutters in the upper stories first taking fire. Well founded alarm was now excited for the safety of the whole range of warehouses on the south side of Orford street, and even for those of Mr Molyneux on the north side, though it is somewhat isolated. Great exertions were made to save the property in all of them by removing it. Soon after one, the four warehouses named blazed with uncontrollable fury, the noise and draft of the flames being occasionally drowned by the more terrific and frequent crashing in of the roofs, and floors, and masses of wall. The upper warehouse on the south side of Orford street, which alone remained of that range, belonging, as well as the adjoining one, to Mr Leigh, and occupied chiefly with bonded and free corn, withstood the heat for some time ; but it at length lighted at the roof, and its height, like that of the others, precluded all operation of the engines, even had they had a plentiful supply of water. A little before two, the conflagration, issuing simultaneously from the five extensive warehouses, was truly sublime. Volumes of flames frequently overtopped the ruined walls to a gigantic height, illumining the atmosphere far and wide, and impressing a bright and lurid tinge upon every high object in the town, and large flakes of cotton, and other light substances, were projected into

the air in a burning state, and were borne over the town to the endangering of the shipping and buildings. Serious apprehensions were now entertained for the safety of the two large warehouses of Mr C. Fletcher, which were separated from the back of the burning range by a narrow passage, called Flixton Lane, and the sequel showed that these apprehensions were not unfounded. On the falling of some of the back walls of Mr Leigh's, the flames burst out in this lane, rendering it impassable ; and in less than an hour the window shutters of Mr Fletcher's warehouse caught fire ; and in a short time, such was the combustible nature of some of the contents (turpentine and oil) that the conflagration became more awful than in any of the other buildings. It spread with great rapidity through the premises as far as Campbell street, and the whole soon presented one mass of vivid flame, simultaneously bursting from every window, and, as it were, enveloping the walls in a sheet of burning gas. A smaller warehouse adjoining, facing the same lane, was also burnt, and it was only by the greatest exertions that the whole range fronting Duke's place, as far as Campbell street, was saved from the devouring element. The intense heat thrown out from Mr Fletcher's warehouses was such as to cause the speedy retreat of the assembled multitude to the far side of Orford street, and the blaze continued, with great intensity, until a large portion of the building fell. Meantime, the other warehouses continued to contribute to the general blaze, and portions of the walls occasionally fell in with a crash. From the second windows of Mr Leigh's upper warehouse, the partly burnt corn, on the falling in of the upper floors, rushed into the street in a stream ; and in Flixton Lane, the burnt corn which had run from the

windows of Fletcher's, formed a heap of 12 or 15 feet in height. As the fire in the latter began to abate, it communicated with the roof of the next warehouse, a low building, belonging to Mr Holt, which was broken in by falling brick; and also in a similar manner to the warehouse below, to the west; but happily the progress of the flames was here arrested, though not till much damage was done. During the height of the blaze, the top part of the warehouse of Mr Harbord, jun. Campbell street, opposite Fletcher's, caught fire, but was by the great and well-timed exertions of Mr Harbord, sen. Comptrolling Surveyor of Customs, extinguished. By four o'clock, the burning had so far subsided, that little apprehension of farther damage was entertained. We have heard various estimates of the loss of property on this deplorable occasion, the bulk of which was in cotton, corn, ship-stores, and the buildings; but all these are vague and uncertain. It is, however, pretty generally rated at about L.100,000. The origin of the fire is not precisely ascertained, but it is said to have arisen from some cotton ignited by a man carelessly smoking a pipe while working among cotton, as in the late fire at Mr Thomas Booth's warehouse, Wapping.

6th.—EDINBURGH.—EDINBURGH BIBLE SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this society was held in the Assembly Rooms, and long before the appointed hour (one o'clock), every seat was occupied, as was also the music gallery. On the motion of Mr Geo. Ross, the Rev. Dr Davidson was called to the chair.

Dr Thomson read the report of the committee, which contained much interesting information, the most important portion of which related to the exposition respecting the conduct of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which

had for several years been applying its funds, to which the Edinburgh Bible Society had contributed largely, in circulating the Apocrypha along with the sacred Scriptures, and still sanctions the practice by its connexion with foreign societies. The report recommends the withholding their contributions to the London committee while they continue in their error, as compromise was out of the question. It acknowledges its obligations to the auxiliary societies, which had not only contributed their money, but expressed their approbation of the conduct of the Edinburgh committee in opposing the substitution of the fancies of lying prophets in the place of divine revelation. The report remarks, that in Denmark and Sweden the opposition was not considered insurmountable; but, even should they fail there, they had abundant fields open for their labours in Ireland, North and South America, and in India. The amount of their funds was less this year than last, but that was accounted for by a falling off in legacies.

Mr R. Paul went over all the subjects embraced in the report, at considerable length, and expressed his strong disapprobation of the conduct of the London committee, who had contributed to the multiplying the circulation of the Apocrypha, by the foreign societies being furnished by them with Bibles, by the sale of which they obtained the means of circulating more of the spurious kind. In conclusion, Mr Paul moved that the report be approved of, printed, and circulated among the members. (Great applause.)

Dr Buchanan seconded the motion.

Mr Campbell of Carbrook wished to know whether actual separation from the British and Foreign Society was intended, or only a mere suspension of contributions. It was his opinion they ought to be slow in separating. He took a different view of the conduct of

the London committee than that expressed in the report, and supported his position with occasional strokes of humour, which excited the risibility of the meeting. He condemned the proposed dismissal of the London committee, although he thought some of the gentlemen composing it ought to resign. The question of the circulation of the Apocrypha, he contended was at rest; it had ceased, and was to cease. After going over a number of other topics, he hinted, that, in the event of actual separation, another society would be proposed. (Disapprobation). And concluded, by moving, as an amendment, that the report should not be printed.

Captain Wauchope, R.N. seconded the amendment.

Dr Thomson, at great length, and with his accustomed animation and poignant wit, replied to all the statements of Mr Campbell, supporting his denial of them by counter statements highly to the satisfaction of the meeting, and exposing the conduct of some leading members of the societies abroad, which fully made out grounds for declining all connexion with the London committee for the present. The Rev. Doctor expressed his belief that if he were to poll every man in Scotland, however indifferent to the subject some might be, they would all be of his opinion. In conclusion, he alluded in strong terms to the practice that had prevailed of sending the penny and halfpenny contributions of the poor labourer abroad, for the purpose of circulating the Apocryphal writings there, thus undoing all the Reformation had done, and returning again to the regions of darkness. (Long applause followed Dr Thomson's speech.)

[During Doctor Thomson's speech, Dr Davidson was under the necessity of leaving the meeting, and, on the motion of Dr Dickson, Mr George Ross was called to the chair.]

The chairman rose and said, that, notwithstanding the unanimous approbation which had been expressed, yet, for form's sake, he should now put the question, to afford the meeting another opportunity of expressing its approbation of the report. (This was testified by very great applause.)

Mr R. Haldane then addressed the meeting, and in the course of his speech alluded to what had fallen from Mr Campbell, that the London committee would be degraded, if they made acknowledgment of their error; he (Mr H.) maintained, until that was done, it was impossible to act in any other way than the meeting had now done.

Dr Jamieson next addressed the meeting, and was followed by Dr Gordon, at considerable length, who, after eulogizing the conduct of the Auxiliary Societies, moved that the meeting, deeply impressed with the zeal and attachment they had shown, should give its thanks to them, trusting they would continue their exertions; which was agreed to.

Mr M. Brown, advocate, moved the thanks of the meeting to the office-bearers.

The chairman stated, that in consequence of the resignation of Mr Grey, Dr Thomson had acted as secretary, and how, ably he had performed the duties of that situation, it was unnecessary for him to dwell upon; he should, therefore, conclude by moving, that that gentleman be requested to undertake the office permanently. (Applause.)

The chairman next read a letter from Dr Peddie, resigning the office of secretary, and moved that the Rev. Mr Paxton be appointed in his room. Agreed to.

Mr Hepburne of Clerkington, after expressing the obligations of the meeting to Dr Davidson for his conduct before leaving the chair, moved the thanks of the meeting to the chairman,

which was unanimously agreed to. Mr Ross returned thanks, and the meeting broke up.

It is a fact perhaps unprecedented, that at present Loch Tay discharges no water by the bed of the river Tay. It is not remembered by the oldest inhabitant in that quarter, that they have at any prior period seen a less body of water than three feet deep issuing from the loch by the Tay, in any season — thus the evaporation from the loch has exceeded in this, any known season, by about 180,124,550 cubic feet.

DRURY LANE THEATRE.—Mr Bish has declined becoming the lessee of this theatre, in consequence of the most extraordinary binding clauses which the lease contains; not a stick or a pin can be taken away, though the lessee may expend L.50,000 on the premises.

11th.—LONDON.—MANSION HOUSE.—On Tuesday, a female, very shabbily dressed, but evidently accustomed to better society than that in which she appeared in the Justice-room, for she respectfully stood amongst the numerous petitioners to the Lord Mayor, presented herself to his Lordship, after he had concluded the business of the day, and mentioned that she stood in need of his advice, as she was, notwithstanding her undoubted claim to something like an independence, actually in want of the common necessities of life. Her husband, with whom she candidly acknowledged she lived before he married her, had been not only a member of the House of Lords, but one of the most distinguished men of his day for talents and public spirit. She was the widow of the celebrated Lord Erskine. The Lord Mayor requested that the unfortunate lady would walk into another room, when a conversation took place betwixt them upon the subject of her distress;

and his Lordship, after having given her immediate pecuniary relief, of which it was evident she stood in need, for she appeared to be actually faint with hunger, assured her that he would without delay exert himself to procure an inquiry into the circumstances of which she complained, but complained without attaching the slightest blame to any individual. As far as we were able to collect, from what was spoken in a low timid tone of voice, the following is the substance of the statement of the widow of the eloquent Erskine:—Lord Erskine had, soon after he lost his first wife, become intimate with the petitioner, who consented to reside with him, and became the mother of three children. His Lordship, who had commenced his acquaintance under a promise of marriage, performed that promise some years afterwards in Scotland, where, by the laws of that country, his children became legitimate. They lived very happily together, but his Lordship's death completely destroyed her chance of independence, although she had been assured some time afterwards that his Majesty would settle a pension on her, in consequence of the sudden and lamentable reduction in her circumstances. The trustees appointed upon the occasion were, she understood, Lords Rosslyn and Duncannon, but she had never received any benefit, pecuniary or otherwise, on account of the pension; and she believed the reason of the rejection was, that she refused to part with her youngest child. The other two children were provided for, and separated from her, and she therefore resolved to undergo any privation rather than be separated from the third. The Lord Mayor asked her whether the rest of his Lordship's family were aware of her distress? She replied that they were; but that,

with every inclination to assist her, they really appeared to her not to have the means. "How then do you contrive to support yourself now?" asked his Lordship. The unfortunate lady said, she endeavoured to keep life within her by needle-work, which was supplied to her very scantily. Her great object being to obtain a decent livelihood for the child that remained with her, she thought nothing of any difficulties she might encounter herself, or of any privations which she might be exposed to, in performing her duty. The widow, with tears in her eyes, expressed her gratitude to the Lord Mayor, upon receiving his solemn assurance that he would cause inquiry to be made of the solicitor and gentlemen who were best acquainted with the affairs of her late husband. The conduct of the poor woman was unobtrusive in the extreme.

From the Times.

We have received the following letter on the subject of this unhappy person, and publish it *verbatim* :—

"Sir,—Noticing in the Mansion House occurrences, Lady Erskine's statement to the Lord Mayor, I am particularly sorry the widow of so great and illustrious a statesman should be reduced to apparent distress and public appeal. In reverting to those occurrences, and in reply to the Lord Mayor's kind inquiries, believing his Lordship to be ever ready to assist the deservedly destitute and distressed, I beg leave to observe, I understand there are four children—two sons abroad, one in the army, the other in the navy : one daughter under the protection of an amiable lady ; the youngest son appears about ten years old.—Observing this, Lady Erskine affirming never receiving any benefit, or least pecuniary aid, from the Earl of Rosslyn

and Lord Viscount Duncannon, as trust for his Majesty's bounty, granted in respect to the late Lord Erskine's family, these noblemen have to my knowledge, for some time paid to Lady Erskine, through the medium of myself and others previously to my collecting, prior and since the 6th May, allowed her 16s. per week, payable through my hands.* The payments were a little in arrear to me, owing to a little advance, it being discontinued for a few weeks, by the Earl of Rosslyn's consistent view to only bring her to a parent's sense or inducement to have the youngest son educated suitable to his birth and station, and for which purpose his Majesty was pleased to grant L.50 per annum; and Earl Rosslyn generously offered to contribute any addition necessary himself; and when initiated in his first rudiments, afterwards to procure his admission in Charterhouse school. Earl Rosslyn, Viscount Duncannon, myself, and others, have endeavoured, in vain, to prevail on her for this child's education, which, I regret to relate, she obstinately persists shall not be, appearing more desirous to keep him in beggary and disgrace, determinedly persisting in keeping him from school. Earl Rosslyn, with the urbanity of a gentleman, has always permitted me free access, as her friend, on her business; offered his personal services, and that his solicitor, at his cost, should assist her to procure, if possible, the legacy of L.300 per annum, left her by her late lord, and requesting to be favoured with any written statement; but this, Lady Erskine insultingly and peremptorily refused, and persisted should not be done. Lady Erskine occasionally and frequently called at my residence, received every due commiseration, civility, and comfort, the house and family afford-

ed. I have taken much pains to assist her, but she does not adhere to the truth, and, I am sorry to remark, is ungrateful to disinterested friends, and much misrepresents facts.

"Sir, your early compliance and insertion of these truths, which can be by several particularly verified, in answer to Lady Erskine's application, and satisfaction to the public, will oblige me. I remain, Sir, your sincere and most obedient servant,

"SAMUEL CHAMBERLIN.

"Great Newport Street, Long Acre, July 12."

"His Majesty's grant was L.300 for herself and L.200 for the family, under very particular injunctions to this trust."

On Thursday, at the Mansion House, Mr Chamberlin waited on the Lord Mayor to make explanations of the above case. It appears that no pension was settled on her ladyship and family; but that L.300 was granted by his Majesty to Lord Rosslyn and Lord Duncannon, in trust for her; and L.200 to be applied occasionally to the use of her family. Mr Chamberlin bore testimony to the correctness of her ladyship's conduct, which had been misrepresented by one of her "female friends," to Lord Rosslyn, whose mind had been consequently soured against her. Her allowance had been reduced from 16s. to 12s. per week, because she would not give up her youngest child, who came, in tatters, to Mr Chamberlin, on Saturday, and received the last ~~9s.~~ which had been put into Mr C.'s hands for his mother's use.

The Lord Mayor ordered that a messenger should be dispatched to Lady Erskine, to inform her that he had received some subscriptions for her benefit. It was observed by his Lordship, that the degraded condition to which the lady of the late Lord Chancellor of England was reduced, might be judged of from the

fact, that she was first introduced to his notice by a chimney-sweep!

DREADFUL ACCIDENT. — *Cowes, July 13.*—A dreadful accident happened yesterday afternoon at five o'clock. Forty-five casks, containing gunpowder, and many of them ball cartridges, were removing from Albany barracks on a truck to Dodnorhard, for the purpose of being shipped on board the Pitt ordnance vessel, of and for Portsmouth; an explosion took place, supposed to have proceeded from one of the horses' shoes striking fire on some loose powder which fell on the ground, owing to the casks not being properly coopered, and killed George Mundell, (who has left a wife, expecting daily her confinement,) owner of the truck, and James Purvis, one of the crew of the Pitt, who has also left a wife in a state of pregnancy, and five young children. The drayman and two soldiers are now lying in the Hospital in a very dangerous state. Both horses were killed; part of the thill horse was actually blown across the Medina river, leading from Cowes to Newport. The beautiful mansion of Dickens Buknell, Esq. of Dodnor, was almost blown to atoms; the doors and windows were blown out, and all the ceilings and the roof of the house destroyed; the family were at dinner, and all were slightly injured, but we are happy to say none seriously. Other houses at Dodnor were injured, and some boats which were lying in the river were pierced with balls. This shock was heard at Cowes, Ryde, Shanklin, and other parts of the island. The Coroner's inquest sat this morning on the dead bodies, and returned the following verdict:—"Accidental death, owing to the ammunition being conveyed on an improper truck."

W. Davidson, Esq. of Shaftesbury House, London, lately deceased, has, out of his ample fortune, bequeathed

L.100, four per cent. stock, as the foundation of a bursary in King's College, Old Aberdeen, to students of the name of Davidson or Knowles, Sim, Ramsay, Simpson, Leslie, Thom, Forbes, Gerard, or Gordon; and also L.600 of the same stock, as the foundation of two bursaries in Marischal College, Aberdeen, to students of the same names, with addition of those of Cooper or Collie.

ELECTION OF SCOTS PEERS.

EDINBURGH, 13th.—This day, the election of sixteen Peers, to represent the Scottish Nobility in the ensuing session of Parliament, took place at Holyroodhouse. Their Lordships were attended by Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Esq., and Colin Mackenzie, Esq., two of the Principal Clerks of Session, in virtue of a commission from the Lord Clerk Register of Scotland; by the Rev. Dr Grant of St Andrew's Church, one of the Deans of the Chapel Royal, and the Rev. Principal Macfarlan of Glasgow, one of his Majesty's Chaplains for Scotland, and by other official gentlemen. The Lord Provost and Magistrates were also present. The business was opened by an excellent prayer from Principal Macfarlan, after which the Union Roll of the Scots Parliament was called over by one of the clerks, when there appeared—

PRESENT.

Duke of Gordon,	Earl of Glasgow,
Marquis of Queensberry,	Earl of Hopetoun,
Marquis of Tweeddale,	Viscount Arbutnot, Strathaldan,
Earl of Errol,	Lord Forbes,
Earl of Home,	Lord Sinclair,
Earl of Kellie,	Lord Colville of Culross,
Earl of Lauderdale,	Lord Reay.
Earl of Kinnoul,	Lord Elibank,
Earl of Elgin and Kincardine,	Lord Belhaven and Stenton,
Earl of Leven and Melville,	Lord Rollo,
Earl of Northesk,	Lord Ruthven,
Earl of Rosebery,	Lord Nairne.

The following Noblemen voted by proxies:—

Duke of Hamilton by Lord Belhaven,
Duke of Argyll by Lord Belhaven,
Earl of Airly by Viscount Arbutnot,
Lord Blantyre by Earl of Lauderdale,
Lord Duffus by Viscount Arbutnot,
Lord Kinnaird by Earl of Lauderdale.

(6)

The following sent signed Lists:—

Duke of Atholl,	Earl of Kintore,
Duke of Montrose,	Earl of Breadalbane,
Marquis of Lothian,	Earl of Aberdeen,
Earl of Mar,	Earl of Dummore,
Earl of Morton,	Earl of Stair,
Earl of Cassillis,	Earl of Portmore,
Earl of Caithness,	Viscount Stormont,
Earl of Moray,	Viscount Kenmure,
Earl of Strathmore,	Viscount Dunblane,
Earl of Haddington,	Lord Saltoun,
Earl of Dumfries,	Lord Gray,
Earl of Wemyss and March,	Lord Somerville,
Earl of Balcarras,	Lord Forrester,
	Lord Kircudbright.

(27)

The Marquis of Queensberry tendered his protest against putting the Earl of Mar on the place which had been assigned him on the roll, which was entered on the minutes, Mr Mackenzie remarking, that all that could be said in answer to the protest was, that it was the duty of the clerks to read the names as they stood upon the Union roll.

Upon the title of Earl of Stirling being read, the Earl of Rosebery said, as no person was present to answer to that title, he believed it was the proper time, and quite regular for him to notice, that at the last election a gentleman appeared at the Lordships' table, and was admitted to vote at that election as Earl of Stirling, who had not previously made good his claim to that title. His Lordship by no means intended to insinuate that the officers had in the least degree deviated from their duty in the interpretation they had put upon the resolution which he had endeavoured to get passed in the House of Lords in the year 1822;

their construction of that resolution was perfectly correct; but having been the humble instrument of proposing that resolution, for preventing the collateral descendants of Peers from assuming titles until they established their claim, it was his intention, should he be again returned a representative Peer, to move an amendment on the resolution of the House of Lords, that any person laying claim to a peerage by collateral descent, and under peculiar circumstances of lineal descent, should not assume the title until his claim was established in his behalf. This, his Lordship said, he thought would be a good wholesome rule.

Lord Belhaven stated, that when he first received the proxy of the Duke of Hamilton, he wrote his Grace that he would not act as his proxy, unless he either filled it up with the names of those he wished him to vote for, or sent a signed list; his Grace had written in answer that he would not appoint a proxy under that stipulation, and sent a signed list. The list was found to be informal; and, as it was not his wish to withhold his Grace's vote from any person, he would, as proxy, read the list he had sent. It was his Grace's pleasure to vote for only ten, and he (Lord B.) desired it might not be understood he withheld any other vote.

The votes having been counted, the following sixteen Noblemen were declared duly elected, viz.—

	<i>Votes.</i>
Charles, Marquis of Queensberry	56
George, Marquis of Tweeddale	56
William, Earl of Errol	55
Alexander, Earl of Home	53
Thomas, Earl of Kellie	50
Thomas, Earl of Elgin	54
Archibald, Earl of Rosebery	56
John, Viscount Arbutnot	49
James, Viscount Strathallan	55
James, Lord Forbes	51

	<i>Votes.</i>
Alexander, Lord Saltoun	57
Francis, Lord Gray	56
Charles, Lord Sinclair	49
John, Lord Colville of Culross	45
William, Lord Napier	51
Robert, Lord Belhaven	43

Votes were also given for

William, Earl of Northesk	37
Robert, Lord Blantyre	1
Erie, Lord Reay	17
John, Lord Kollo	25

Lord Blantyre was not a candidate.

The Clerks having certified the return of the noble Lords to Chancery, in presence of their Lordships, the business was closed with prayer by the Rev. Dr Grant.

At the election in 1818, there were 58 voters; viz. 27 present, 3 proxies, and 28 signed lists. On Thursday there were exactly the same number of voters, 58; of whom 25 were present, 6 proxies, and 27 signed lists.

The election took place, as usual, in the Picture Gallery, and was numerously attended. So judiciously, however, was the whole arranged, that although the room was completely filled, there was no over crowding or confusion.

In the afternoon, the noble Lords, accompanied by several persons of distinction, dined in the Waterloo Tavern, where an elegant dinner was served up.

EDINBURGH, 14th.—This night, about ten o'clock, a porter was proceeding along the North Bridge, with a bag on his back, the contents of which, from the shape and smell, caused several to suspect it was a corpse. An immense crowd, of course, collected, and when the porter reached the Tron Church, they proceeded to acts of violence upon his person; but, luckily for him, a posse of police arrived, who took him under their protection, and escorted him to the office. On examining the bag, it

turned out to be the dead carcase of one of Mr Wombwell's non-descript animals, the Lama, which had died at Glasgow, and which he was sending to a certain celebrated stuffer of dead animals, for preservation.

MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS.

STATE OF TRADE.—We are sorry to remark that the cotton trade continues in the most cheerless state; and, at the present moment, is so exceedingly discouraging, as not to afford, as far as we can discover, even a reasonable prospect of early amendment. Accounts from abroad are as disheartening as the home trade; and, unless some unforeseen circumstances arise to give a new impulse to speculation, new energy to demand, we fear we must expect an augmentation of our already too heavy burden of commercial embarrassment. From the accounts we receive from the neighbouring towns, it appears that the distress of the poor is rather increased than diminished, many of their employers having found it absolutely necessary to turn off their hands, either partially or altogether; while others, perhaps thinking it a more humane alternative, have reduced even the miserable wages which their unfortunate workmen have lately received. On the policy or impolicy of the latter proceeding, we will not offer an opinion. Work at any price, however low, is certainly to be preferred to absolute idleness: we therefore content ourselves with deploring the necessity which imposes, on the humane mind at least, a task so disagreeable.

HUDDERSFIELD.—The distress in this district continues undiminished, we fear that we might add, has increased; and though 500*l.* in addition to 1000*l.* before transmitted by the Society in London, has been received

from the Society, the sum in hand at present is scarcely equal to three weeks' supply.

MANCHESTER.—We regret to state, that during the last week, some meetings of a character but too likely to lead to a breach of the peace, have been held in this town. On Wednesday evening, between seven and eight o'clock, upwards of 1000 people (how convened we have not been able to learn) collected in the vacant ground near St George's Road, and remained assembled about an hour, during which time some very inflammatory addresses were made to them by two men, one, we understand, a delegate from Leigh, and the other a resident in Manchester. The former told the people they had borne their sufferings long enough, and they must now do something to put an end to them. He urged them to meet in greater numbers; that all who could find arms should bring them; that the others should arm themselves at the gunsmiths' shops; and that they should then help themselves at the provision shops and the banks. The other speaker addressed the people to pretty nearly the same effect; and they separated soon after eight o'clock, with an understanding that they were to meet the following night. They consequently assembled in greater numbers on Thursday evening, about the same hour, when speeches of a similar character to those uttered on Wednesday were again addressed to them, but by different persons. One man was particularly violent. He strongly exhorted the people to come the next night armed. A man in the crowd here lifted up a large bludgeon, and asked if they were to arm themselves in that manner? The speaker replied that would do for those who could not get better weapons; but they must get possession of the gun.

smiths' shops, and the barracks; they would then be masters of everything, and could help themselves to what they wanted. The meeting broke up about half past eight. The greater part of the people turned along Cropper Street into Oldham Road, where it happened that Colonel Kearney of the 2d Dragoon Guards, and Major Eckersley, were riding, attended by a single dragoon. As soon as the mob perceived these officers, they pursued them towards New Cross, hooting, and, in one or two instances, throwing stones at them, but, we believe, without doing them any injury. Friday night, a much larger number of persons, amounting probably altogether to between four and five thousand, assembled about eight o'clock, not in St George's Road, but on a vacant piece of ground opposite Mr James Kennedy's factory. After some time spent in making a ring, an Irishman, dressed in a short frock, we believe the same individual who spoke on the preceding evening, was appointed chairman, and addressed the people for half an hour.

MIDDLETON, 16th.—About twelve o'clock last night, the inhabitants of this place were surprised by the sudden appearance of 200 or 250 men, armed with sticks and bludgeons. At the time of their arrival everything was going on as usual in the place; shops and public houses were open, and people were looking after their ordinary concerns. But the unexpected intrusion of these strangers caused an instant change in the appearance of things; everybody was filled with amazement or alarm. The rioters came from towards Manchester, and halted in the market-place. Some of them were heard to say, "Here are shops—we can help ourselves to provisions; and here are shoes—let us each get a pair." They came in military array, and

halted in their ranks at the word of command. By their speech, their leaders were known to be Irish. One man spoke aloud, and said, "If any honest man is prepared with arms, and disposed to join us, he will be made welcome"—but nobody came out—not one inhabitant of Middleton joined them. Presently a noise was heard, and a cry that the soldiers were coming. Some then left their ranks, but the main body passed up Wood Street, and retreated across a place called Archer Park, and through the Great Park, that leads into the old road to Manchester, by which route they escaped. The military, a party of the Queen's Bays, now made their appearance, accompanied by Messrs Norris and Foster, Magistrates, the Boroughreeve of Manchester, and a number of constables; and had it not been for their timely arrival, there is every reason to believe the work of plunder would have commenced. Nothing, however, was now left for them to do, but to look after odd stragglers, two of whom were taken and conveyed to Manchester, having confessed they came with the mob. Three others were taken this morning by a watchman. One of them is now in the dungeon here. He is a young man, poor and emaciated in appearance. He says he was in St George's Road when the mob came up, and he was compelled by them to fall into the ranks, and to come with them to Middleton. After the retreat of the rioters, the soldiers paraded the streets and lanes, and were received at several places with hooting and shouting, and other expressions of disapprobation; but no stones were thrown, nor any violence offered.

MANCHESTER, 16th.—Last night, a meeting of several thousands of the working classes took place near Ancoas Street, at one of the outskirts of the town. The object of it seemed

to be, how to remove their present distress. The crowd was harangued by several speakers—one, particularly, dressed in a blue frock coat. There was something said about the Middleton people and their delegates, and about taking up arms, and delivering themselves from present difficulties. At this period, three persons made their appearance, and stated that the Middleton people were armed, and ready to come out. It was then resolved to march to Middleton forthwith, and join the body there. They accordingly set off for that place, but were quickly followed by the soldiers and several Magistrates, who dispersed them, and took a number of prisoners.

A posting bill, of which the following is a copy, is here circulated:—

PUBLIC NOTICE.

We, the undersigned Magistrates for the county of Lancaster, have observed, with great regret, that certain evil-disposed persons, strangers in Manchester, have, within the last few days, been endeavouring to excite the peaceable and well-disposed inhabitants, by inflammatory language and addresses, to acts of outrage and insubordination; and in furtherance of their wicked object, have given notices of public meetings to be held in the evenings of several days in the present week, at which such strangers have been the principal speakers, and the meetings have been protracted to late hours of the night. Now, we do hereby declare our opinion, that all such meetings are illegal, as having a manifest and direct tendency to a breach of the peace, which it is our duty to protect. We, therefore, caution all persons not to attend any such meetings, nor in any respect to be induced, by the wicked and mischievous, to engage in proceedings which must

bring upon them all the consequences attending such illegal conduct.

Given under our hands this 15th July 1826.

New Bailey Court House.

J. NORRIS.
J. SILVESTER.
JAMES BRIERLEY.
J. HIBBERT.
J. FOSTER.

MANCHESTER, JULY 18.—Yesterday, all the prisoners taken at Middleton were brought up for examination at the New Bailey. Their names were Robert Suggett, James Sampson, Peter Naylor, William Smith, Jerry Naylor, and William Paxton. They all admitted having gone with the rioters from here to Middleton, but at the same time said they were compelled to go by threats. The two first were committed to the Sessions, and the others, who were mere lads, were ordered to find sureties to keep the peace. Last night, there was no meeting in this town. There was, it is said, a small assemblage of persons on Tandle Hills, near Middleton; and some reports were circulated last night of meetings at Stockport and Ashton, but we have not been able to trace them to any authentic source, and we do not believe they have any foundation.

JULY 22.—We are happy to say that this town has continued in the enjoyment of the most perfect tranquillity during the whole of the present week. Those sudden alarms and surmises by which the inhabitants were kept in excitation for some days previously have subsided. Prospects do not brighten in the mercantile or manufacturing sphere, with respect to demand for goods, whilst heavy imports of the raw material, cotton, are continually succeeding to each other.

Since our last, says the Stockport Advertiser, another very extensive

cotton mill has ceased working, in consequence of the extraordinary pressure of the times; and sorry are we to say, that there is too much reason to fear that others will be compelled to do the same. The burden of our poor's rates is increasing heavily, and how can it be otherwise, when by the above unfortunate event from 6 to 700 hands are thrown out of employment without the slightest chance of gaining another situation?

A public meeting of the most respectable citizens of, and British subjects in, New York, is announced in the American Papers of the 16th ult. to be held on the 19th ult. to enter into a subscription for the relief of the distressed in this country. One of the American Papers remarks, that the country is literally overflowing with provisions of all kinds, especially flour, and there are hundreds of ships ready to transport these provisions to this country.

17th.—YORK.—This day, Leonard Wilkinson, found Guilty at the York assizes of robbing and murdering Mr Carter, a flour factor at Crakehall, on the 19th of May last, was executed on Monday. Before his death he made the following confession:—“I went to the place to stop Nicol Carter, intending to rob him, and got a large rail from the hedge, which being too long, I broke it in half, keeping the longest piece in my hand. I saw him coming slowly along on his galloway, and hid myself till he passed; I then went behind him and knocked him off his horse, and he cried, ‘Oh, for God’s sake, don’t kill me!’ I struck him another blow on the head, which broke the rail in two. He was then senseless, and I robbed him. I tore up the draught, and threw the fragments away close to Finghal church. I hid the money in the hollow of a tree; the rest is

already known, and I hope God will forgive me.”

19th.—EDINBURGH.—TOWN COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.—On Wednesday, although the Council was occupied for an uncommon length of time, the greater part of the business was of little public importance. The following matters may, however, be mentioned:

St Vincent’s Church.—The Lord Provost stated, that he was happy now to have it in his power to lay on the table the plans prepared by Mr Playfair, under the directions of the Council, for erecting a church on the area of Silvermills, facing St Vincent’s Street, some time ago acquired by the city from Mr Lauder. His Lordship said, Mr Playfair was in the next room, and would be glad to afford any explanations. Mr Playfair was accordingly introduced, and the plans were handed round the table. In answer to questions by different members, he stated that the tower would be 30 feet square, and 150 feet from the ground—that the church would seat, in a comfortable manner, 1600 persons, and that the total cost would not exceed L.13,000—it might perhaps be less.

The Council approved generally of the plans—instructed Mr Playfair to proceed immediately with the working drawings, and in procuring estimates, and named a committee to make every requisite arrangement for proceeding with the building.

Docks and Harbour.—The Lord Provost produced the agreement with the Navy Board for the extension of the pier, which had not been completed; and, on the motion of his lordship, it was resolved that it should be printed, and the relative plans lithographed for the use of the Council and the Commissioners.

The Council directed the necessary steps to be followed for carrying

into effect the provisions of the act of last session, regarding the conversion of the shore-dues into sterling money. These steps are—the presentation of an application to the sheriff, with a view to which the collector of shore-dues and the accountant are ordered to prepare the requisite tables.

The Clerks produced a certificate from the Merchant Company of Leith, bearing that Mr George Crichton had resigned his situation as one of the Commissioners, and that they had appointed Mr William Goddard, merchant, in his place.

Legal Assessors.—The Lord Provost reminded the Council of the conversation at last meeting, in regard to Mr Ferguson's appointment as a Clerk of Session. The Council, his Lordship said, would now be saved the trouble of considering the compatibility of the two situations, as Mr Ferguson had tendered his resignation. Now, therefore, that the office was vacant, it became the duty of the Council to fill it with a well-qualified person. They were all aware that it was both a difficult and a delicate matter to select an individual to fill an office of so much importance, when there were in the field two gentlemen perhaps equally well qualified to perform the duties, with honour to themselves and advantage to the community. Being compelled, however, to make that election, and having considered the subject attentively, and keeping in view the very high testimonials in favour of Mr Urquhart, which had been received from the Lord Justice Clerk, from Lord Pitmilley, and from Mr Baron Hume, he felt himself bound to propose that gentleman.

Old Provost Henderson seconded his Lordship's nomination. When he had the honour of filling the chair, last year, the vacancy, which had now occurred, had been expected. At that time, he believed, Mr Urquhart would

have been sure of his election; but, although a new Council now sat, he still thought himself bound to support him. As the testimonials in his favour had, he understood, not been generally perused by the members, he proposed that they should be read. This having been done,

The Dean of Guild proposed Mr John Tawse.

Bailie Bonar seconded the nomination, and observed, that if Mr Tawse's friends had chosen to procure testimonials of his abilities, he should have been able to produce very satisfactory ones. This they had not done, as they thought it better to rest on the opinion which had been formed of Mr Tawse after 18 years' practice. He knew that Mr Tawse had devoted himself much to the study of criminal law; he had, too, occasionally performed the duties of assessor, in the absence of Mr L'Amy. After some other observations from other members, the Council divided, when Mr Tawse was elected by a considerable majority. The Lord Provost then adverting to the increased duties of Assessor, on account of the late police act, and other causes, suggested that the fourth assessorship might now with propriety be filled up, as had been done on a former occasion, but without any salary to the junior Assessor, so long as he should remain such; and after a good deal of discussion, the matter was referred to a Committee to consider and report, and likewise to report generally upon the salaries and duties of these legal advisers.

Natural Philosophy Class.—The Lord Provost produced a letter from Professor Leslie, transmitting a complete catalogue of the Natural Philosophy Class apparatus, distinguishing what already belonged to the town from what he had purchased on the faith of being refunded. The

Professor's communication went a good deal into detail, and concluded by congratulating the patrons on the fact, that his class possessed what he had no hesitation in stating, was the most extensive, choice, and instructive apparatus in the island.

The whole business was referred to the College Committee.

THE COMET STEAM PACKET.

From the Greenock Advertiser of 21st.

The operations for raising this vessel having drawn near their completion, since the commencement of the week, much interest regarding it has been excited here, and numbers have been daily attracted to the spot to mark the progress of the undertaking, and witness the first appearance which the shattered bark exhibited when raised above the water's surface. Among the earliest indications of its near approach was the discovery of the body of an elderly stout-made female, on Monday evening, supposed to be the cook known to have been on board the Comet, and nearly the last grown-up person, of the ill-fated passengers, whose remains had not long previously been recovered. Notwithstanding the great length of time it had been in the water, the body was but little decayed. Having been taken up the river until opposite Gourrock churchyard, it was then put into a shell and interred. On Wednesday afternoon, a pair of bagpipes were fished up from the deck of the vessel; and it will be recollected, that to the inspiring strains of this instrument some of the passengers were enjoying themselves in the dance, not an hour before that dreadful collision which ushered them into eternity. It was Wednesday before any part of the wreck was got above water; Thurs-

day, some farther progress was made in bringing the vessel close in shore; and on Friday morning, when the tide had completely ebbed, a considerable part of the deck was above the surface; but that portion of the vessel which comprehends the main cabin, from lying obliquely on the face of a bank, (perhaps 30 degrees from a horizontal position) yet remains uncovered. The bow of the vessel is completely shattered, and the funnel thrown down, and resting lengthways on the deck. A variety of articles have been fished up from the fore cabin, including several pieces of silk dresses, children's frocks, shoes, thread cases, and some appendages of the toilet, a small trunk, &c. all which have been taken charge of by the proper authorities. A man's hat and a part of a jawbone were likewise brought up on the point of a boat-hook. The whole exhibits a very melancholy spectacle.—It is expected that, with the assistance of a tide or two more, the vessel will be hauled altogether on the beach.

From the Glasgow Herald.

We are indebted to a gentleman in Gourrock for the following very interesting letter:—

“Gourrock, Saturday Evening, 22d July.

“Mr Brown has fixed his chains down to-night for the last time, as he expects to have the Comet dry at low water to-morrow morning's tide. As yet there has been no access to the principal cabin. All that has been found, therefore, has either been on deck, or in the steerage. This morning the body of a female was found on the quarter-deck in a state of very great decay, so much so, that the remains of the dress alone indicated that it was probably the corpse of Miss M'Intosh. It was carefully put into a coffin, and interred immediately.

" To-day a considerable quantity of bones was found in the steerage, but there was in that place such a mass of rubbish and mud, that it is impossible to say how many bodies there might be. The jacket of a very young boy was picked up, inclosing the ribs only, and no other part was visible.

" With regard to private property, not much has yet been recovered. The piper's chest was found yesterday, and bank-notes to the amount of L.75 inclosed; none of which were in the least injured, although completely saturated with water. A pocket-book lay on the deck, containing L.6 in small notes, all entire; some silver and copper were also picked up on deck. A number of bottles, supposed to have originally contained whisky, were found full, but the spirit was invariably changed for a liquid of a bitter taste.

" The vessel herself is so complete a wreck that she must be broken up; she can never again float. It reflects great credit on the ingenuity of Mr Brown that he succeeded in bringing her ashore. Both stem and stern are quite smashed, and the deck planks torn up. This must have been done chiefly by the chains last winter, in the first attempt to raise her.

" The copper boilers have collapsed in a surprising manner, and, as boilers, are useless. The sudden condensation of the steam must have produced a vacuum, and the pressure of the surrounding water on the outside caused this effect. Engineers have already set to work to take the machinery to pieces, under the direction of some of the proprietors.

" It is a remarkable circumstance that the body of the female found floating from the wreck on Tuesday, and supposed to be that of Mr M'Donald of Borrodale's cook-maid, was in a better state of preservation than any other yet found, and it has been

freely asserted, that she was in a state of intoxication at the time the accident happened.

" The Sheriff, Mr Marshall, has been indefatigable in his attentions to the preservation of property.

" *Sunday Morning.*—Owing to an accidental circumstance, the Comet has not been moved so far in as to ebb the cabin at low water, yet a number of articles have been got, among other things, Mr Rollo's travelling bag. I saw it opened, and the money so much talked of recovered; it was tied in a pretty large parcel by itself, without any wrapper, but perfectly unruffled and fresh-looking. The Sheriff is now engaged counting it, but it is a tedious operation, and I cannot say how much there will be of it.

" A silver tea-pot belonging to Captain Sutherland, an *Andrew Ferrara* sword of Sir Joseph Radcliff's, some shooting and fishing apparatus, and a few small baskets and parcels of wearing apparel, have all been got from the wreck this morning; but no more bodies."

From the Glasgow Courier of 25th.

This unfortunate vessel was finally and completely hauled upon the beach on Sunday evening. In addition to the details contained in the above letter, we have only to add, that two trunks were got out on Sunday evening, but as they had not been opened at the date of our accounts yesterday, it is uncertain what they contain. A fowling-piece, and a military cap, belonging, it is supposed, to Captain Sutherland, have also been found. The following is a correct account of the money which has been recovered:—

In Mr Rollo's bag	L.632 13 9
Piper's chest, about	75 0 0
Captain's money	15 0 0
And small sums	8 0 0

L.730 13 9

The notes are wet, but not materially damaged. Several law papers, (leases, &c.) belonging to Mr Rollo, were found in a good state of preservation; and the crockery ware in the steward's cabin was, in general, found uninjured. The vessel is a most complete wreck; but it is quite certain that nothing belonging to any of the ill-fated passengers can remain on board, so closely has the wreck been searched. Sunday being a beautiful day, the wreck was visited by a great number of people from Greenock and the neighbourhood.

PRINTING TRADE.—No branch of trade is suffering more at present than that of printing. In Edinburgh, at this moment there is not one-third of the usual amount of work, and, but for the session papers, it would have been still worse. Above seventy compositors are now going idle, and many others have but partial employment. In London, the trade is absolutely at a stand; a very eminent printer there, who employed eleven readers, finds one sufficient to carry on his business at present; in another office, where eight or nine presses were kept going, there is nobody employed but a foreman and two or three apprentices. The stagnation has been increasing from week to week, and there are now, we understand, twelve hundred printers in the metropolis absolutely idle, and deprived of their means of subsistence. As a last resource, application has been made to other towns for subscriptions, and, depressed as the trade is here, we learn that they have agreed to contribute what they can to the support of their brethren in London, for a few weeks.

HADDINGTON SCHOOL OF ARTS.—The annual general meeting of this institution was held on Thursday last, and was graced by the presence

of Dr Chalmers.—Provost Dods was in the chair, and the Assembly Room was crowded to excess. The report, which was read by Mr J. G. Lorimer, described the progress of the institution, and intimated that, during the ensuing session, lectures were to be given on the principles of mechanics, and the application of chemistry to agriculture. The meeting was then addressed by Mr Sedgley, Mr Patrick Sheriff, Mr George Cunningham, and Mr John G. Lorimer, who pointed out the general utility of such an institution, its beneficial influence on the character of the people, and its tendency to improve and perfect the art of agriculture, which formed the pride of East Lothian. Dr Chalmers then rose, and in a speech of one hour, poured forth a torrent of eloquence, which was at once a feast to the reason and imagination, and filled the audience with astonishment and delight. After he had finished, the thanks of the meeting were voted to him by acclamation.

Robert Sym, tried at last Glasgow Circuit with Dollan, and sentenced to transportation for life, returned from Edinburgh, on Friday afternoon, to his friends with a free pardon, it having been discovered, from the most satisfactory evidence, that the conviction against him proceeded on an error.

UNITED KINGDOM STEAM PACKET.

The United Kingdom, without question, outstrips and surpasses anything of the kind ever seen. She measures on deck 175 feet long, by 45 feet 6 inches wide—her paddles are above 20 feet in diameter, and she has two engines of 100 horse power each; she is frigate built, and has a spar-deck above the main-deck, which has a large open area in the centre, surrounded by iron balustrades. You descend to the main-

deck by a flight of steps on either side, and find the bottom of this commodious area environed by a range of elegant sleeping apartments, containing ample room, and every requisite for dressing, &c. and peculiarly adapted for summer travelling. From this is the entrance to the saloon, which is situated under the quarter-deck. It is supported on each side by Corinthian pillars of highly polished satinwood, and in the middle by a range of brass pillars of the same order; it measures 46 feet long and 36 broad. It is hung with crimson damask. Ten beautiful mirrors, ranged on all sides, shed on the surrounding objects their glittering rays. Three ranges of tables, extended lengthways, afford sufficient accommodation for 130 persons to dine at once. Handsome sofas, and chairs of a very fashionable pattern, while the most useful, are not the least ornamental part of the furniture of the saloon. At one end of the middle table is the fire-place, the mantel-piece, surmounted by a superb mirror; and, at the other end, a capacious sideboard of the finest mahogany, with fluted silk fronts. In the centre of the middle range of tables, immediately under a large circular sky light, is an oval aperture, 4 feet by 3 in diameter. It is covered by plate glass, and admits light into the sleeping room which is below. Immediately below this apartment is a spacious sleeping room for gentlemen, curtained with blue damask. As before observed, the light is admitted by an oval aperture at the top, around the sides of which are ranged plate glass reflectors, and what at present seems to excite the particular attention of visitors, is a large glass globe containing gold-coloured fishes, resting on the plate glass at the top, and vases of roses placed around its edge, which become represented to the spectator below

like a miniature sea of transparent brightness, bespangled by a thousand little shining inhabitants, sitting through its waters, and which seem to flow through an endless paradise of flowers. From the main-deck a flight of steps of easy descent conducts to the ladies' apartment, which is most superbly and tastefully arranged, and affords every convenience which luxury could invent, or the most luxurious require. It is curtained with crimson damask; and the chairs, as well as the sofas which surround it, are covered with the same material. It is supported on each side by Ionic pillars, and is furnished with two large plate glass mirrors, rich Brussels Carpets, &c. It is placed so near the centre of the vessel, that the motion at sea will be scarcely perceptible. There is also a fore sleeping cabin, comprising six apartments of different sizes, containing from 2 to 10 beds each, for the convenience of families; also a small steerage fitted up with 14 beds, and bedding, nearly as good as the rest.—The total number of beds in the vessel is 170. The kitchen also displays considerable ingenuity in the construction and arrangement of its various conveniences, and we are informed is to be placed under the direction of two French cooks. Surely, "the pride of luxury can no farther go." To sum up the whole, without fear of contradiction, it may be asserted, that no vessel equally well contrived for the accommodation of its expected inmates, has been ever seen since the days of Noah. It was built at Greenock, and is to be employed to sail between London and Leith.

General Miller, whose distinguished services under the immortal Bolivar, have so much contributed to liberate South America from the thralldom of Spain, has arrived at his native village, Wingham, near Canter-

bury. He was second in command to Bolivar at the Battle of Ayacucho, and his prompt, decisive charge at the head of the cavalry of the Patriots decided the day in favour of liberty. The General has brought home many curiosities from the clime he assisted to free—and, among the rest, some cavalry standards of Old Spain, which were captured in the sanguinary struggles in which he took part.

MR FARQUHAR.—It appears that the claimants to the vast property of the late Mr Farquhar have, for the present, been disappointed in their expectations of speedy possession. The heir-at-law, that is, the first claimant, is now supposed to be a resident among the wilds of America. It is a female, the eldest niece, who married many years ago a Frenchman. The Lord Chancellor says, "until that lady appears nothing can be done." She has an undivided title to the domains at Fonthill.—From parsimony, Mr Farquhar never obtained the title-deeds of that estate; the stamp duty he refused to pay, amounting to L.1000, and, consequently, Mr Beckford never executed the conveyance.

The Ex-King, Joseph Napoleon, wishing to reside in the dominions of the King of the Netherlands, addressed a letter on the subject to the King of Sweden, who made an application to that sovereign. The King of the Netherlands referred the matter to the King of France, who convened a council of his ministers, and after consulting with the foreign Ambassadors in Paris, granted the required permission.—*French Paper.*

REMARKABLE GOOD FORTUNE.—The following story verifies the proverb, "Cast your bread on the waters, and you will find it after many days." Mr Kinsman, a highly respectable butcher, near the Elephant

and Castle, London, has lately come into possession of a very considerable estate in the county of Devon, in a singular and unexpected manner. A few years ago, a person, having all the manners of a gentleman, but very much reduced in life, drew the attention of Mr Kinsman by his frequently coming to his shop for small bits of meat; from which circumstance he entered into conversation with him, and, finding him in the greatest possible distress, not only supplied him with meat for his dinner for upwards of twelve months, but became his friend in many other respects. About six years since, the person disappeared, and from that time till within these few months he never heard anything of him; and it now turns out that he became possessed of very large property in the county of Devon; at which place he died a few months ago, leaving Mr Kinsman the estate above named, which is supposed to be worth L.500 a-year.

The Recorder made his report to the King in Council, on Thursday, of the prisoners under sentence of death in Newgate, when his Majesty was pleased to respite all the prisoners, excepting Charles Butcher, for sheep-stealing, and John Fordham, for burglary—the former being ordered for execution on Wednesday next, and the latter on the following Monday, the 7th of August.

DESPERATE FOOTPADS.—ATTACK ON THE GLOUCESTER COACH.—Friday morning, between two and three o'clock, as the Gloucester Champion coach was proceeding on its way to town, and whilst halting at the top of the hill at Feather-bed Lane, near West Wickham, for the purpose of securing the wheel previous to its descent, three fellows, dressed as seamen, instantly came up, when two of them placed themselves at the windows of the coach, and commanded the

passengers to deliver their money, whilst the third sprung forward to secure the leaders, if possible; but fortunately, by the activity of the coachman, who was on his box, and the guard instantly mounting his seat, they set off at full speed down the hill, when the fellow who had attempted to secure the leaders, fired a pistol, and so seriously wounded one of the horses, that the coachman was obliged to leave it behind, and proceed on with the others to the next stage.

MR ELLISTON AND MR POOLE.—Another fracas between Mr Elliston and Mr Poole, the dramatist, took place at Vauxhall on Friday evening. It will be recollected that Mr Poole recovered L.80 damages from Mr Elliston some time since, for a similar assault. The latter gentleman, it seems, had been enjoying the *noctes ambrosianæ* in one of those sequestered glades, when the former, who no doubt had just broke up from one of his *cenæ decorum*, came jump on him. The recognition was mutual; some words passed from Mr Elliston, to which Mr Poole made no reply, and was instantly attacked by that gentleman, apparently without any immediate provocation on his part. Mr Poole endeavoured to defend himself, but Mr Elliston struck and kicked him several times, and seemed well disposed to favour the admiring and astonished spectators with a pugilistic treat. Mr Winston, who is well known as the friend of Mr Elliston, interfered, and, with the assistance of some other gentlemen, the combatants were separated, after a long but harmless struggle. At the adjourned Surrey Sessions, on Thursday, a true bill was found against Mr Elliston.

EARL GREY—T. W. BEAUMONT, Esq.—A correspondence has been published, which at once explains

various things that appeared so mysterious during the late election for Northumberland. In August, 1823, when Mr Beaumont was paying his addresses to a daughter of the estimable Sir John Swinburne, he wrote a letter to Earl Grey, in which he charged Lady Swinburne with criminal conduct, not only with Earl Grey himself, but with General Grey, and her own butler!—Earl Grey replied to this letter, that it had excited his surprise, and indignation; and that, as far as related to himself, the infamous allegation made against Lady Swinburne's character was totally false and unfounded. Mr Beaumont, in October, wrote to Earl Grey a note, in which he says that his conduct to his lordship was unjustifiable, and offers an apology for it. This note was delivered to Lord Grey by Mr Beaumont's brother, who also showed Lord Grey several letters that had passed between Mr Beaumont, Sir J. Swinburne, and Mr Edward Swinburne. Lord Grey then said, that he wanted no apology, for he quite concurred with everything Sir J. Swinburne had said; that he had viewed Mr B.'s conduct as proceeding from mental derangement, and must decline all farther intercourse with him. After this (in 1824) Mr Beaumont wrote to Earl Grey, stating, that, as he understood he should not be spoken to on his return from abroad, he should lay before the world the treatment he had received from Sir John and Lady Swinburne. Earl Grey returned no answer to this letter. To another sent by Mr B. to Earl Grey, in 1824, his lordship replied, that he considered Mr B.'s having been under a mental delusion as the only excuse that could be made for his conduct. A letter from Sir William Gordon is given, in which he states, that having seen all the correspondence on this subject, Mr

Beaumont's proceedings had produced on his mind the very same conviction which Lord Grey had entertained respecting Mr B.'s mental delusion. Mr Beaumont after this threatened to bring an action against Earl Grey, unless he would say that he was mistaken in imputing mental delusion to him. Lord Grey replied, that he would not retract an iota of his opinion. With this the correspondence terminated, and nothing more was heard of the prosecution of Earl Grey.

MEETING OF THE STOCKPORT WEAVERS.—We had hoped, from the good sense and forbearance which our fellow townsmen have hitherto shown that we should not have had to report anything to their disadvantage; but, unfortunately, they have begun to listen to the insidious and inflammatory language of men who have no other object in view than to create anarchy and bloodshed. We had heard that meetings had taken place on Monday and last week, and that one would be held in Longshut Lane, last night (Wednesday). We proceeded to the appointed spot about 8 o'clock, where we found about 200 or 300 men and boys assembled; others continued to arrive until a quarter to nine, when the numbers on the ground were between 500 and 600. At this time, a man, who, it was evident, was expected to address them, arrived; a ring was immediately formed, and he proceeded to business by reading from Sherwin's Register, of Nov. 14, 1818, one of the most inflammatory extracts we ever recollect to have heard. The tenor of it was to incite the people to arm, recommending for that purpose a knife, eleven inches and three quarters in length, and two broad at the bottom, fixed into a staff eight feet long. (At this part of the proceedings, some person in the crowd fired

a pistol off.) With this formidable weapon they were to defend themselves, or, if necessary, use it offensively. The speaker then proceeded to state (from the extract) the superiority of a body of men thus armed over a regular force, armed in the usual way. The vindication, as he called it, which by the by, was very lame and unsatisfactory, being finished, he said, "Now is the time for any one to propose resolutions." Having repeated this two or three times, and no one coming forward, the meeting broke up about half past nine, and the people returned peaceably to their homes, evidently not much edified, and no doubt greatly to the mortification of the orator.—*Stockport paper.*

DREADFUL EFFECTS OF PASSION.—The following lamentable case of manslaughter, perpetrated by a father upon the person of his own son, between six and seven years of age, arose from giving way to an unbounded fit of passion, excited by a cause the most trivial. The unhappy man, who now stands charged upon the Coroner's warrant for the offence, is a Mr Ranton, a person about 50 years of age, and holding a respectable situation in society, that of steward to Thomson Bonar, Esq. of Elmstead Lodge, about two miles below Bromley, Kent. It appeared that the child went daily to school to Bromley, but, on account of the distance, was in the habit of going home only once a-day, at the close of the school in the evening. About ten days since, the boy, upon leaving school, loitered on his way, which occasioned him to arrive at home considerably after the usual time. Upon going in doors, his father questioned him as to the cause which had kept him so long, and, not receiving a satisfactory answer, ordered the child into a room. On entering the room, the door was fastened by the father, when it appeared he took up the rail of a

chair which was lying upon the floor, and began to chastise the poor child in a most unmerciful manner, the cries of the child only serving to exasperate the frenzied fit which had taken possession of the father. The child, endeavouring to avoid the blows, stooped, when, horrible to relate, the stick lighted with the utmost violence upon the back part of the child's head, and in an instant he fell senseless on the ground, the blood gushing in torrents from the wound. The unhappy man, upon seeing the fatal effects which his passion had occasioned, gave immediate alarm. The intelligence was instantly carried to the house of his master, and a messenger was dispatched for surgical aid. In the course of a quarter of an hour, a surgeon arrived, who attempted to bleed the child. But medical aid was of no avail, the vital spark having fled. Upon the day following the dreadful catastrophe, the coroner held an inquest on the body, when, after the examination of two witnesses, a verdict of "Manslaughter" was returned, and the unfortunate man was committed to Maidstone jail, to take his trial at the Sessions for the offence.

ROSLIN.—The foundation stone of the chapel of ease for the parish of Lasswade, was laid at Roslin on Tuesday the 25th, with all the honours of masonry. An immense concourse of people of all ranks was assembled to witness this interesting ceremony. The delightful day, and the romantic and beautiful scenery surrounding this far-famed village, combined with the presence of many of Scotia's fairest daughters, had a most imposing effect. Shortly after two o'clock, deputations from the various lodges of Edinburgh and Dalkeith marched into Roslin, where they were received by Captain Bal-

main of Rosebank; Messrs Charles Crosland Hay, Roslin Castle, Wallace, Merricks, Charles Read, Cochran, and Bishop, part of the committee of management. Upon arriving at the spot, a very eloquent and appropriate prayer was offered up by the Rev. Thomas Coulston of Penny-cuik; after which the usual ceremonies were gone through, and the various coins of the present reign, along with a newspaper, &c. were deposited—Captain Balmain officiating in place of Mr Mercer of Dryden, who was prevented laying the foundation stone by a sudden domestic affliction. Afterwards about sixty sat down to an excellent dinner in the inn, and spent the evening with much conviviality and good-humour. The erection of this chapel was sanctioned by the last General Assembly. It is expected to be roofed in during the month of September, and to be ready for opening, as a place of worship, early next spring.

27th.—PAISLEY.—**DISTRESS AT PAISLEY.**—**APPLICATION TO GOVERNMENT.**—A meeting was held in Paisley on Thursday—Mr Campbell of Blythswood, M.P. in the chair. Mr Campbell stated, that the funds in the hands of the treasurer amounted to less than 1700*l.*; that the weekly expenditure was nearly 500*l.*; that within the last two weeks the number of applicants had increased by 180; that the wages allowed were 7*s.* per week, on an average. He had weekly communication by letter with his Majesty's ministers, who were averse to give a Government grant. If forced to fit, it would be the last shift. Mr Spiers of Elderslie said, that, considering the long-continued and fearfully increasing distress of the country, nothing but a Government grant could be expected to be adequate to relieve the distress. He recommend-

ed the state of the country to be submitted to Government. If they gave the grant, it would be for the public good. If they withheld it, they would take the consequence; they would do it at their peril. Sir John Maxwell, Bart, was decidedly in favour of a Government grant. Sir W. M. Napier was of the same opinion. Mr Campbell remarked, in explanation of what he had said before, that no doubt ministers would agree to the grant, if they saw no other remedy. Mr Maxwell, M.P. believed that Mr Canning, when properly informed about the condition of the working classes, would comply with the wishes of the meeting. He then read resolutions, setting forth the sufferings of the workmen, and the propriety of the immediate interposition of Government, to avert the consequences of want. Mr Spiers seconded the resolutions. Mr Wallace of Kelly proposed resolutions ascribing the distress of the country to enormous taxation; and suggesting the immediate assembling of Parliament, in order that effectual measures might be taken for relief. This motion was seconded, but it was afterwards withdrawn, and Mr Maxwell's resolutions were unanimously carried.

The Paisley committee, in their report for last week, state, that the number of new and necessitous cases, which, after strict investigation, have been placed on their list for relief during the week, far exceeds the number of those who have obtained employment elsewhere, and been struck off it. The sum of distress is therefore considerably increased, and the fund is again rapidly drawing to a close.

The Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire, in answer to the numerous applications which have been made to him from the Upper Ward regarding emigration to Canada, has notified

that Government have had the subject under consideration, but it is not possible at present to afford any public aid, as no money has been voted by Parliament for that purpose.

EXECUTION AT STIRLING.—On the 28th, Peter Moffat was executed at Stirling, for the murder of his father at Kilsyth, in April 1822. He fled at the time he committed the deed, and was not discovered till October last, when he was apprehended in the village of Auchinearn, where he had worked at the weaving for a considerable time, under the assumed name of Watson. About half past two o'clock, he came upon the scaffold, attended by the Rev. Messrs Bennie and Marshall, and appeared perfectly calm and collected. After the usual religious ceremonies had been gone through, the culprit stepped forward and addressed the multitude, acknowledging his guilt, and warning all to beware of drunkenness and Sabbath-breaking. The executioner then drew a white cap over his face, and proceeded to adjust the rope; but having made it too short, it would not reach the prisoner, and some disapprobation was expressed by the multitude, when he gave a sudden start, put up his hand, and snatched the cap off his head, and rushed back upon the scaffold. The Rev. Mr Bennie instantly came forward and endeavoured to calm the mind of the prisoner, and again led him forward to the drop. After the fatal apparatus had been adjusted, and a short time spent in prayer, he gave the signal, when the drop fell, and, after a few convulsive throbs, life became extinct. After hanging the usual time, the body was taken down and put into a coffin, preparatory to its being sent to Edinburgh for dissection. He was only about 21 years of age.

DISTRESSING ACCIDENT.—On Tuesday last, Mr Alexander Jamieson

son, surgeon in Alloa, went with a party of friends on an annual pleasure excursion to Ben-cleuch, one of the Ochills. The party having spent the day in the purest friendship, towards night-fall, Mr Jamieson separated from them to call on one of his patients at Tillicoultry, to which place the road from the top of the hill runs along a ledge of precipices. In passing a rock, about 200 feet above the level of the glen, Mr Jamieson fell, the grass being very slippery on account of the drought, and was found by a shepherd at four o'clock the next morning. His body was so much injured that medical aid could be of no avail, although he was so recollected as to direct the lad how to draw blood of him, and give other necessary instructions; he died at nine o'clock. The fate of Mr Jamieson is deeply deplored by the inhabitants of Alloa and its neighbourhood.

MELANCHOLY LOSS.—On the morning of Friday, the 21st ult., a Burghhead fishing-boat was half way across between Lossiemouth and TARBETNESS. It was blowing a hard gale from the NE., when the fishermen found it necessary to part from their nets—immediately upon which the boat swamped. The master of the boat (James Macdonell) contrived to extricate himself, and succeeded in getting his son (a boy of eight years of age, who could not be dissuaded from going to sea) lashed to the mast. John Henry, another of the crew, also contrived to support himself for three or four hours. While these three persons were in this perilous situation, a rope was thrown to the unfortunate sufferers from an Anstruther vessel then passing; but, as the vessel did not slacken sail, or lie too, this slight effort at assistance proved useless. About an hour after, the poor boy and Henry died. At ten o'clock A. M. Macdonell was picked up by a fishing

smack, and brought to Findhorn. The crew of this smack reported that they had passed two wrecks of fishing-boats near Hopeman. In the Burghhead boat, we are grieved to say, there were lost, a man of the name of Cameron, who has left a widow and three children to deplore his melancholy fate; another man, name unknown—besides John Henry and the master's son.

PROVIDENTIAL ESCAPE.—Arrived at Greenock, on the 16th ult., the *Latona* of London, James Paterson, master, from Cape Breton, with timber. When off the Mull of Kintyre, Captain Paterson discovered a small boat with two men and a woman on board, labouring hard to bear up against a tremendous sea. He succeeded in getting them on board of the *Latona*, and they were landed at Greenock. The story of this frail bark, of about 13 feet keel, and her worn-out crew, is no less remarkable than it is interesting. Samuel Adamson, master of the boat, proceeded from his abode in Orkney, with lobsters, for Mr Davidson, in Stromness, on Friday the 7th ult. accompanied by John Sinclair and his wife. After delivering their fish, they set out from Stromness on the evening of the same day, directing their course to their native haven, but were soon enveloped in a most impenetrable fog, by which they lost every trace of the land; and the wind having shifted during the night, they were carried by the tide through the Pentland Frith, which changed their course to quite an opposite direction. About seven P. M. of Saturday, they were picked up by a Prussian ship, bound to Wexford, in Ireland, with timber—then 40 miles out of sight of land in the North Sea. They remained eight days on board, till, at Adamson's own request, he was turned off between the north of Ireland and the Mull of Kintyre, with the intention

of landing on the latter coast, where they were picked up by the *Latona*, when in imminent danger of perishing.

UNITED STATES.—DEATH OF MR ADAMS AND MR JEFFERSON.—New York papers received at Liverpool to the 8th ult. by the ship *Leeds*, Captain Stoddard, announce the death of John Adams, the successor of General Washington as President of the United States, and father of John Quincy Adams, the present President. Mr Adams was in the 92d year of his age.—Letters by the same conveyance also announce the death of Thomas Jefferson, the President for eight years after Mr Adams. It is a most remarkable circumstance, that these distinguished statesmen died on the 4th July, the anniversary of American independence, and precisely fifty years from the day on which they affixed their signatures to that important declaration.

At the Exeter Assizes, on the 27th, William Henry Ems, shopman to a Mrs Newman, a grocer and cheesemonger of that city, was tried on various indictments for stealing money and goods from her and her late husband, (whom he had served many years,) and declared guilty. It was stated out of court, that when the prisoner was apprehended, in September last, a sum exceeding 7000*l.* was found in his boxes and trunks. There was 1000*l.* in gold and silver in one box, and rolls of bank notes, from 1000*l.* down in another. Those who knew him thought those boxes contained ores and minerals, in which the prisoner affected to be very curious. The money is now lodged at a banker's, and will, in all probability, become the subject of future litigation between the Corporation, the Dean and Chapter, and Mrs Newman, whom many con-

ceive to have the best right to it. The case excited intense local interest.

THUNDER STORM.—A thunder storm fell on the 30th over many parts of the country, which did considerable injury. In Danbury Park, Essex, the electric fluid struck a large oak tree standing by the side of the great road; the bark was stripped off, and the tree shivered in a surprising manner. An elm tree near was also much injured. At Ingatestone, the electric matter was remarkably forked, and the thunder resembled the rattling of artillery. Mr Coverdale, of Ingatestone Hall, had a very narrow escape. He was measuring timber in a wood belonging to Lord Petre, and had just left a large tree under which he had been sheltering, when it was shivered to pieces. Two trees were also much damaged at Bottsbury.—At Maldon, as a young man, son of Mr Demaid, of South House, was stacking wheat with his father, a flash of lightning struck him, and he called out, "Oh, my eyes!" He worked for a very few moments after this, and then fell upon his back, as if dead; his distressed parent, with some of the labourers, lifted him up, under a full conviction of his being a corpse, and carried him home. After some time he recovered, but in complete darkness. The poor lad remains in this gloomy state, and without even a hope of returning sight: he, however, begins to feel somewhat more cheerful, and his medical attendants flatter him with a chance of the restoration of at least one eye. The spire of Raunds church, in Northamptonshire, was struck by the electric fluid, and instantly fell with a dreadful crash; considerable injury was also done to other parts of the church; the whole of the damage is estimated at 2000*l.* At Grimsby, Lincolnshire, Mr Tho-

mas Wardale, brickmaker, was knocked down by the lightning, whilst crossing a street; it scorched his face and caused it to swell, deprived him of the use of his right arm, and rendered him speechless for some minutes after the shock.—A large corn mill belonging to Mr Thimbleby, of East Kirby, was also struck by the lightning, which shattered the mill-sail to pieces, and totally destroyed a sack of flour, which stood near the door of the mill. The miller, who was present at the time, fortunately escaped without farther injury than a scorched face.

AUGUST.

2d.—LONDON.—The execution of Charles Butcher, for sheep-stealing, took place on Wednesday morning in the Old Bailey. His behaviour was penitent; but he declared his innocence to the last, of the crime for which he was about to suffer. He, however, acknowledged that he had been guilty of many crimes deserving the punishment of death.

NOTTINGHAM, 4th.—Smith, *alias* Shepherd, and Milnes, *alias* Ponter, were executed on Friday at Nottingham Jail, for robbing the shop of Mr Clifton, of Bingham, of a large quantity of drapery goods, and also for breaking into and robbing the shop of Anne and John Wheat, at Rampton, and stealing thereout a cart-load of drapery goods, value nearly L.200. Both prisoners acknowledged the justice of their sentence, and showed every contrition for their past misconduct.

PITLESSIE, 4th.—An unusual sensation was occasioned in this village, this afternoon, when the lifeless body of Robert Graham, familiarly known by the term "Laird," was discovered suspended in his own stable. For some weeks past this well-known in-

dividual has been considered as labouring under great depression of spirits, and occasional aberrations of mind; he had been seen frequently shedding tears without any apparent reason, and wandering into the fields without aim or object. Under these circumstances, there can be little doubt, that his unfortunate death was accomplished in a fit of mental aberration. His funeral took place in his own burial-ground, in the church of Culter, upon Sabbath last, and it was truly gratifying, as well as indicative of the liberal and improved feeling of the age, to observe the numerous and respectable attendance on this occasion. He died with the blessing of the poor upon his head, and few individuals have acted their part as a neighbour, and as a landlord, in a more kindly and accommodating manner. His death will be a severe loss to many.

NETHERLANDS.—Brussels papers state, that a Catholic priest had been condemned, by the tribunal of Maestricht, to five years' imprisonment, and a fine of 3000 francs, for obtaining money by pretending to cure persons suffering under the effects of witchcraft. He appealed to the court at Brussels; and his advocate pleaded, that his belief in witchcraft was genuine, and borne out by the ritual of the church, of which "exorcism for witchcraft" forms a part. Notwithstanding this authority, however, the sentence of the inferior court was confirmed.

The King of the Netherlands has given 20,000 florins towards rebuilding St Paul's, at Rome. The Pope, in acknowledging the princely donation, hopes that Roman Catholics might be equally liberal if *Protestant churches had to be rebuilt*.

SOUTH AMERICA.—BOGOTA.—(Extract of a private letter.)—We have learnt here this very day, that

the famous lake Guatavita has been completely drained; and consequently the agents of Captain Charles Cochrane, of the English Admiralty, and other persons interested in this great enterprise, have set out in great haste to receive in person their respective shares of the immense wealth which it is expected will be recovered from the bottom of the lake. An emerald of immense magnitude has been already discovered, inclosed in a large figure of pure gold, with a great number of golden images, near the banks of the lake. You will be, no doubt, curious to learn the history of this celebrated lake. It is as follows:—Before the conquest of this country by the Spaniards, there were about two thousand inhabitants under the dominion of the Cacique, or Chief of Guatavita, who resided in a large city, and kept on foot an army of 40,000 men. He was much beloved by all his neighbouring tribes, who, in exchange for wheat and other provisions, gave him great quantities of gold dust and precious stones, particularly emeralds. The lake is situated on the summit of a hill, about ten thousand feet above the surface of the sea, and this mountain is reputed by the natives as the residence of their tutelär deity, to whom they used to make offerings twice a-year; on which occasion, the Cacique, all the chiefs, and such of the inhabitants as accompanied him, after the performance of certain solemn ceremonies, were in the habit of throwing, to as great a distance as they could, immense riches into this lake, supposing that they thereby made atonement for all the sins of which they had been guilty the preceding six months.

According to calculations made by a learned man named Kier, who has carefully examined all the documents which he could procure, respecting

the lake, it is supposed that they must have buried there, both in gold and precious stones, to the amount of 28 milliara of francs. At the conquest of the place, by the Spaniards, the natives were so cruelly persecuted on account of their gold, that they threw all the remainder of their wealth into the lake. We are assured that the Cacique alone threw as much gold dust as fifteen persons could carry, into it. The Spaniards made several attempts to drain the lake, and had got within fourteen feet of the bottom, when the banks fell in, but they had then found a quantity of gold images, and they sent to Madrid an emerald valued at 100,000 dollars. Since that period nothing had been done till the arrival of Captain Cochrane here, about three years ago. He formed a company to drain it. The success of the enterprise induced government to send a strong detachment of troops to surround the lake, and prevent the company from being deprived of the immense treasures which they expect to find immediately at the bottom. Besides having the largest share in this speculation, Captain Cochrane is interested in two silver mines, which are now being explored, with great hopes of advantage; and he has also a third of the proceeds of a great copper mine in the valley of Arroa. This mine is the most singular, and the richest in the world. It is an immense copper mountain, capable of supplying the wants of all the world. The produce is more than 60 per cent, whilst the English mines do not return more than 10 per cent. The company, which consists principally of Captain Cochrane and different branches of his family, is now embarking from Porto Cabello, with immense quantities of unwrought copper, to be transported into England, where it is to be manufactured.

The copper is reckoned the purest that has been ever known ; and has been used in casting all the artillery cannon now at Cadiz.

7th.—LIVERPOOL.—DREADFUL ACCIDENT.—Between twelve and one o'clock, the large warehouse, commonly known by the name of Pool's warehouse, consisting of seven stories, at the corner on the west side of Lydia Ann Street, suddenly fell down with a tremendous crash. Fortunately it was dinner time, otherwise it is probable that, being a bonded warehouse, occupied with property, principally cotton and linseed, belonging to a number of persons in the various rooms, the consequences might have been more fatal than there is at present cause to apprehend. Two children were killed by the falling of the warehouse upon the two adjoining small houses in Lydia Ann Street, and a third is supposed to be in the ruins. A young woman, aged about 20, their sister, and a boy, aged 10 years, were extricated from the ruins, but very much bruised ; the latter with his head fractured. They were taken to the Infirmary, and hopes are entertained of their recovery. Two men who were employed in sinking a foundation on the west side, immediately adjoining the warehouse, were covered in the ruins ; one of them was, by great exertions, happily got out alive, but with severe contusions ; the other, although partly visible, could not be taken out until near six o'clock, and his appearance indicated his death to have been immediate. Some other persons were slightly hurt in passing, by the falling of the materials. The sad catastrophe is supposed to have taken place from the great weight of property in the warehouse, which was newly built, and which not, having had sufficient time to settle, was

in some degree weakened by the adjoining excavation.

Farther Particulars.—It appears that three children have been taken out of the ruins of the house adjoining, the roof of which was carried in by the walls of the warehouse. A man, his wife, and a child, have been also dug out of the ruins ; the wife and child had brought the husband's dinner ; and they were dining together, when they were hurried into eternity at the same instant. Two other men have also been taken from among the heap. From the situation of the mass, no doubt but the upper tier of vaults are broken in, and probably the other tier may be injured. The loss will be very heavy, and where it will fall is at present unknown.

DUBLIN, 7th.—DISTRESS IN DUBLIN.—In consequence of a resolution, which was entered into on Saturday last, by the Relief Committee, from the scantiness of the funds in their possession, to reduce the wages of the unfortunate weavers, who have been employed in making roads in the vicinity of Dublin, to *sixpence* per day, many hundreds of them assembled this day, in the neighbourhood of the Circular road, and came in a body into the city : they made a formidable, but, at the same time, a most affecting and melancholy appearance ; many of them held their squalid children by the hand, and poverty and despondency to such an extent was depicted in their countenances, as to be sufficient to excite the commiseration of any person. In passing through Westmoreland Street, &c. to the Royal Exchange, they distributed a printed handbill to the following effect :—"Fellow Citizens—Do not be the least surprised at seeing so many of your poor fellow citizens rambling through your streets,

in order to ask, whether you have given your sanction for us, poor road-makers, to be reduced from one shilling to sixpence per day? Give us bread for our children; so of the two evils, choose the least; for, rely on it, we will billet them where there is something to eat." Between two and three o'clock, they arrived at the Royal Exchange. About half past four, there being no answer given to their memorial, they became impatient. About five o'clock, they began to depart from the Exchange in different parties; some of them went up Usher's Quay, and forced open a bakery; others adopted the same course to get provisions in Thomas Street, Francis Street, the Coombe, Meath Street, &c.; but the largest number assembled in James's Street, and with stones or brick-bats attacked the bakery of Mr Manders. Four of them were, in different places, taken into custody.

CEREMONY AT LEITH OF DRIVING THE FIRST PILE OF THE EXTENSION PIERS.

Edinburgh, 15th.

Since the landing of his Majesty at Leith, yesterday four years, the town of Leith has not presented so animating a scene as it witnessed yesterday at the above ceremony. At an early hour the royal standard

was hoisted at the Naval Yard, and on the Custom House; and the standard of Scotland, a lion rampant in a field of gold, was displayed from the staff of the Signal House. The ships in the harbour and docks, and the different vessels in the roads, including the United Kingdom steam-packet, were gaily decorated with flags, some of them with holly bushes and evergreens, while the light-house and store-house yachts boasted a profusion of streamers and pendants. The arrangements were very complete, and reflected much credit on those concerned. Access was given to the pier by a temporary platform entering from the Sands, and two rows of seating were formed along the pier for the accommodation of spectators. These benches were chiefly occupied by elegantly dressed females; and all along the outer wall of the docks, fronting the sea, on the bridges, and on every eminence, a vast concourse of people were planted. At half past ten o'clock, the different public bodies, composing the procession, began to assemble in the Assembly Rooms, Leith; and, after being marshalled under the superintendence of Sir Patrick Walker, Usher of the White Rod, and Mr Murray of the Theatre Royal, (part of the quay lined by a party of the 25th regiment,) they moved off in the following order:—

Band of the 7th Hussars.
Officers of the High Constables of Edinburgh.

Moderator.

High Constables of Edinburgh.

The Lord Provost and Magistrates of Edinburgh,

Ushered by their Sword and Mace, and attended by the Council and other usual State, and by such of the Dock Commissioners as were not engaged in other official situations.

Magistrates of Leith, with their usual attendants.

Magistrates of Canongate, in similar state.

Officers of the Navy and Army, and other Persons invited to the Ceremony.

The Bible.

Junior Clergyman.

Senior Clergyman.

Corn, Wine, and Oil.

Superintendent of the Docks.
 Engineer, with the Plans of the intended work. Clerk of the Dock Commissioners, with the Act of Parliament.
 Band of the 25th Regiment.
 Officers and Men belonging to the Docks.
 Officers and Men of the Naval Yard.
 Commissioners and other Officers of the Revenue Department.
 The Office-bearers and Brethren of the Trinity-House.
 Office-bearers and Members of the Corporation of Maltmen.
 Office-bearers and Members of the Trades.
 Office-bearers and Members of the Corporation of the Traffickers &c Merchant Company.
 • Band.
 Society of Shipowners.
 Society of Carpenters.
 Moderator of the High and Special Constables of Leith.
 High and Special Constables.

About a quarter to twelve, the procession reached the extremity of the pier, where the platform for the ceremony of driving the pile of the extension pier was erected. The platform was occupied by the Lord Provost and Magistrates of Edinburgh, the Bailies of Leith and Canon-gate, Commissioners of the Docks, &c. After the parties had taken their stations, a prayer was offered up by Mr Grant, one of the ministers of Leith. After which, a very fine anthem was played by the band of the 7th hussars. When the business of producing the Act of Parliament, &c. had been finished, the Lord Provost made a suitable address to those assembled, on the great importance of the undertaking.

His Lordship then proceeded to the driving of the pile, which took place at ten minutes past twelve. After pouring on the wine, oil, &c. his Lordship said—

“May the bountiful hand of Heaven ever supply this country with abundance of corn, wine, and oil, and all the necessaries and comforts of life.”

The band then struck up the King's Anthem, and this part of the ceremony concluded amidst the ringing of bells, the firing of a salute

from the carronades planted along the quays, and the loud huzzas of the surrounding multitude.

After this ceremony was concluded, which was at half past twelve, the Lord Provost and Magistrates, the Magistrates of Leith and Canon-gate, the Members of the Leith Dock Commission, the Members of the Trinity-House and Shipowners, and the High Constables of Edinburgh, accompanied by the excellent band of the hussars, embarked, at the royal landing place, on board the Tug steam-boat, which sailed with them, amid the huzzing of the multitude, (the band, all the time, playing favourite national airs,) out to the roads, round the United Kingdom steam-packet, (being cheered by the crews of the different vessels in the roads as they passed them,) and back towards the north end of the new wet dock, where the other public bodies, composing the procession, had assembled. The Rapid Newcastle steam-packet, filled with beauty and fashion, accompanied the Tug in this excursion. The Lord Provost and Magistrates, accompanied by several of the Commission, then descended into a barge, about 200 yards from the shore, to attend the ceremony of driving the first pile of the west or

Government pier, when his Lordship made a suitable address to Mr Day, one of the Naval Commissioners, and Superintendent of the King's Dock, to which Mr Day replied.

The first pile of the Government pier was then driven in, which was conducted with the same solemnities, and accompanied by the same demonstrations of joy as the driving of the first pile of the other pier.

Those in the barge then returned into the Tug, which sailed into the harbour, amid the renewed acclamations of the people on shore. The party landed at the end of the Custom House, and met the other bodies at the wet docks; when the whole returned, in reversed order, to the Exchange Buildings; when those in advance opened up, allowing the Lord Provost and Magistrates, Magistrates of Leith, and High Constables of Edinburgh to enter; which, when they had done, the rest followed. The Lord Provost stood at the head of the room, surrounded by the Magistrates of Edinburgh and Leith. When all were assembled, he advanced towards the centre, and congratulated those present upon the great order and regularity with which the business of the day had been conducted, and expressed his warmest wishes that the work they had been engaged in might be a lasting and signal benefit to the Port of Leith and City of Edinburgh. The company then separated.

The weather, at the commencement of those imposing ceremonies, was favourable, and continued so till the party embarked in the Tug, when the rain fell in torrents.

A boat race followed; but, owing to the unfavourable state of the weather, excited little interest.

16th.—EDINBURGH.—EXECUTION.—This morning Andrew Fullarton was executed at the head of Libberton's Wynd, for the robbery of James

Hunter, cowfeeder, St Leonard's Street, Edinburgh, on the high road between Edinburgh and Dalkeith, on the night of the 18th of April last. His fate, owing to his youth, and to an opinion that he was the least guilty of the three by whom the robbery was perpetrated, had excited a deep and general interest. He was a quarrier in Gilmerton, a village noted for the number of malefactors it has produced, and was not more than 22 years of age. He was a man of rather weak mind, as most criminals are, and deplorably ignorant. Since his conviction, however, he diligently applied himself to the study of the Scriptures, and, aided by the clergymen and other pious persons who attended him, he succeeded at length in acquiring a tolerable knowledge of the great truths of religion. His conduct was all along penitent, and every way becoming, though, for a long time, the love of life displayed itself in often-repeated inquiries made by him at the turnkeys, whether any answer had been received from London to an application he had forwarded for mercy. It is believed, that the news of the apprehension of his supposed associate, Reid, had somehow been communicated to him; and that a notion that the bolt of justice should and might be averted from his head and made to descend on that of Reid, had inspired him with false expectations. A week ago, however, hope completely deserted him, and he prepared for his fate with the most devout resignation. He was frequently visited by several of his relations, to whom he acknowledged he had been a great sinner, and whom he earnestly counselled to amend whatever was amiss in their conduct. When visited, on Monday last, by his wife, (an interesting and well-behaved young woman, who has one child, the fruit of their marriage,) he told her to

grieve not for him, adding, with that dangerous and unbecoming certainty of divine forgiveness which marks the behaviour of too many criminals in their dying moments, "that he *knew* he was going to exchange a state of sin and misery for one of perfect bliss." Even till so late as Monday, he continued to assert his innocence of any concern in the robbery, though he admitted he had shared in the assault. This is just one of the numberless instances of criminals deceiving themselves, and attempting to deceive others, regarding the extent of their guilt, for no human being who heard the evidence can doubt, that at least he knew at the time the object of the assault to be robbery, and became an approver of all that was done. Yesterday morning, the upper turnkey found him in a more cheerful state than he had ever seen him in. At five o'clock yesterday evening, he was visited by his wife, a brother, a sister-in-law, and another relation. There was great composure on Fullarton's part, deep and ill-suppressed anguish on the other. At parting with his wife and sister-in-law, Fullarton's firmness was overpowered. He shed tears, but they were tears of sensibility, not of cowardice. Last night he was removed in a coach to the Lock-up-house. He employed the time he was in prison (excepting three hours, during which he slept soundly) in devotion. Early in the morning he was waited upon by the Rev. Dr Gordon, and the Rev. Mr Porteous, who paid him every attention due to his situation. The magistrates, Bailies Bonar and Anderson, having arrived, and the usual preparations been made, the procession began to move up the wynd at half past eight o'clock. On reaching the scaffold, a psalm was given out and sung; after which Dr Gordon prayed most fervently. During the prayer, the criminal appeared exceedingly faint, and at the close of

it spoke some time to both the reverend gentlemen. He partially renewed his composure, and was then placed on the drop, and the noose being fixed round his neck, and the cap adjusted, he prayed so as to be audible to those around the scaffold. The exclamations of "Oh dear!" and "Oh God!" were more distinctly heard. At length he prepared to give the signal, paused, and then dropped it. The effort was too much for the state of his feelings, for he fainted, and fell towards one side as the drop descended. His struggles were very brief. The crowd was immense.

SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES. — We understand it has of late years been in agitation to make inquiry into the system of education in our universities. It has been supposed that, owing to the want of an efficient superintendence, the management in various departments of study may not have tended to advance the interests of science and letters to the extent that could be wished, and that a commission for inquiring into and reporting on the constitution and direction of those valuable and national institutions might be extremely useful.

The King is vested with a power to issue such a commission, which power, though frequent commissions were issued in ancient times, has not been exercised for upwards of a century. It is not surprising, therefore, from the want of this exercise, that an idea should be entertained that the changes and enlightenment of modern times may call for corresponding changes in establishments, of so ancient a constitution as our colleges; and we are sure nobody wishes it more than the learned professors themselves.

It will be in the recollection of our readers, that some time ago a dispute originated betwixt the Town Council and the Professors of the

College of Edinburgh, or technically, the *Senatus Academicus* of the College, respecting the expediency of making it imperative on the students applying for medical degrees to attend a course of midwifery. The expediency of admitting such a course in the curriculum of study was admitted by both parties, but unfortunately, they differed as to the time *when* the rule should be made imperative. The Town Council thereupon made a visitation, *in form*, to the *Senatus Academicus*, in the exercise of the right which that corporation claimed for directing a proper curriculum, and the *Senatus Academicus*, declining to acknowledge the validity of such power, applied to the Crown for a Royal Visitation, or a Commission of Inquiry.

The Crown has accordingly issued one, embracing not only the University in which such dispute arose, but all the other colleges of Scotland; and the Commissioners, who are to have their first meeting on the 31st current, in the College of Edinburgh, consist of the following noblemen and gentlemen, all official characters, in whom the country has the fullest confidence, and we cannot but congratulate our readers and the country in general, upon the judgment and propriety with which the selection has been made:—

Right Hon. Lord Viscount Melville, Chancellor of the College of St Andrews; his Grace the Duke of Montrose, Chancellor of the College of Glasgow; his Grace the Duke of Gordon, Chancellor of King's College, Aberdeen; most noble the Marquis of Huntly, Chancellor of Marischal College, Aberdeen; Right Hon. the Earl of Aberdeen; Right Hon. the Earl of Rosebery; Right Hon. Lord Binning; Right Hon. the Lord President of the Court of Session; Right Hon. the Lord Advocate of Scot-

land; Right Hon. the Lord Justice Clerk of Scotland; Right Hon. the Lord Chief Baron of Scotland; Right Hon. the Lord Chief Commissioner of the Jury Court; the Hon. Lord Pitmilley; the Hon. Lord Gillies; the Hon. Baron Hume; The Solicitor-General* of Scotland; The Dean of the Faculty of Advocates; Dr Taylor, Moderator of the General Assembly; Dr Cook, Moderator of last General Assembly.

At Leeds, on Thursday last, Charles Stewart, a wandering mendicant, in a fit of passion, produced by bugs disturbing his repose, rose from the bed, and hung himself to a rope suspended from the ceiling! His wife ran for assistance, but he was dead before she returned.

Between one and two o'clock in the morning of Sunday last, the officer commanding the blockade party, at Fort Moncrief, near Hythe, being out on duty, heard the report of fire arms, as a signal for a smuggler being on the coast; and proceeding to the spot, accompanied by three of his men, they discovered a very long galley, attended by a large party of smugglers, working her cargo of contraband goods. A brisk firing instantly commenced, during which two of the smugglers fell; one of whom was seized by the officer, Lieutenant Johnson, but he was overpowered by numbers, until released by his party; and on renewing the contest, the smugglers retreated into the marsh with their goods, leaving behind them 14 tubs of spirits, and a man named Bushell, severely wounded; two of the blockade men were also wounded, one of them so seriously, as to leave little hope of his recovery. Just after the smugglers retreated, Lieutenant Westbrook came up with his party, and pursued them into the marshes, where he found three muskets they had abandoned, and a half anker,

through which a ball had passed, in such a direction, that if the person carrying it escaped the shot, it must have been by a miracle. The prisoner's wound being in the knee, has rendered amputation necessary above that joint.

FEVER IN DUBLIN.—The fever, we regret to state, is every day extending; the hospitals, and even the temporary sheds fitted up for the reception of patients, are all full, besides which, we understand that 300 fever patients are lying in their own rooms, from the impossibility of accommodating them in any of the hospitals. The fever as yet is confined to the working classes; but an epidemic and very contagious dysentery prevails generally throughout the city; we have not, however, heard of any instance of its terminating fatally. The Lord Lieutenant, with the promptness and humanity which mark his government of Ireland, has taken every means to arrest the progress of the malady, and to afford additional accommodation for the persons suffering under it. Tents, camp-equipages, and booths, furnished by the Ordnance Department, have been employed to receive those which the hospitals and dispensaries could not take in; but such are the numbers of the infected persons, that the Old Nunnery in King Street, which had been fitted up as a temporary hospital, and contains many wards, was filled with patients in *one hour*. We fear that the cause of this visitation is to be traced to the prevalence of distress, and want of food; the only effectual mode, therefore, of arresting its progress, will be found in those measures which have for their object the alleviation of the one, and providing the other.

We learn from the *Cork Southern Reporter*, that the city of Cork is in a state of unparalleled distress.

DUEL.—An affair of honour took place, on the 18th, close to Cowes Castle, between the Earl of Glengall and Lord William Lennox. The noble Earl was attended by Colonel Anson, and the gallant Lord by his brother officer, Lieut. Gordon of the Blues. The cause of dispute was an accusation made against Lord William Lennox, that he is a contributor to "*The Age*," a London weekly newspaper, which, by its constant publication of tales of scandal and scurrility, is greatly annoying to the feelings of individuals and families in the higher classes of society. Lord Glengall had expressed his conviction of the truth of this accusation, and, upon request, refused to retract his opinion. Lord William sent his friend to demand for him the usual satisfaction of a gentleman. A meeting was immediately appointed, and an exchange of shots took place, without doing any personal injury; the seconds then declared that enough had been done by both parties, and the principals left the ground without explanation, or having had any direct communication with each other in the affair.—*Hampshire Telegraph*.

EXTRAORDINARY PROCEEDING—
RIOT IN A ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL.
—The late Roman Catholic rector of Birr was an infirm old man, and his business was discharged by a curate of the name of Crotty, for a considerable time. Of the character of the latter you may form an idea, when I tell you he has undergone an imprisonment, within the last 12 months, in a common jail, for a violent and aggravated assault on a peaceable and inoffensive man. The old rector has retired on a superannuated salary, and the bishop gave the living to Mr Kennedy, late Roman Catholic rector of Lurrah, who, either disliking Crotty's character, or wishing to discharge the duty himself, gave Crotty

notice to quit; this the latter peremptorily refused, and the bishop, to quiet him, gave him a small living in Limerick, to which he went. However, the Birr ladies, after a short trial of Kennedy, not finding him equal to Crotty, swore they would not have any but the latter, and no wonder. Kennedy is a little fat man, Crotty a strapping able fellow, six feet one inch, and shoulders in proportion. Kennedy thundered, Crotty laughed at his pigmy efforts, and the parish echoed it. The bishop suspended Crotty; the latter performed mass better than ever; things went on in this manner for two months; at length Kennedy waxed pugnacious, and, on Sunday week, attempted to storm the altar, *vi et armis*. Kennedy immediately issued a proclamation, denouncing Crotty and his men. A man, named Simmons (under the auspices of an attorney, named Cooke) answered it, threatening the vengeance of the law on Kennedy and his friends. But on yesterday morning the crisis arrived. The first mass was celebrated by Crotty, without interruption; but when the second was commencing, a carriage drove up to the chapel door, containing Lord Rosse, the Roman Catholic bishop, and Kennedy; at the same time the 66th regiment, under Major Baird, (Colonel Nicol was at church,) approached from the barracks; the town police, under Captain Fearnlough, came from Birr; and along the Kennedy road advanced another body of police, under Major Judge, who headed the crusade at Mountmellick; Mr Crotty retired from the altar, the bishop advanced, and the people were quiet, till they found he was excommunicating Crotty by bell, book, and candle-light; immediately the hisses and groans were deafening; the bishop paused—the signal was given, and, in an instant, two hun-

dred soldiers, with fixed bayonets, entered the chapel, and in all probability saved his life. The people became outrageous, and the soldiers and police took the most refractory prisoners, though not without great exertion. The bishop then formally and regularly excommunicated Crotty, and, under a strong guard, returned to the Castle. I suppose, not less than 10,000 people assembled, and they unanimously expressed their determination never to pay Kennedy sixpence. The same guard will be necessary every Sunday, as Crotty is determined not to give up.—A strong guard was kept through the town and neighbourhood, and it was a late hour before the mob were finally dispersed.

20th.—EDINBURGH.—FIRE.—This morning, a fire broke out in the sunk flat of a house in Home Street, near Lochrin distillery, which was attended with fatal consequences. The alarm was given about half past twelve o'clock; and with that promptitude and dispatch which now mark the operations of our fire establishment, the engines were very soon after on the spot; but, unfortunately, although a fire-cock is placed in the vicinity, there was no water in the pipes, and half an hour was lost before it could be got, by which time the fire had made great havock in the sunk and street stories, both of which are nearly destroyed. The furniture of the other flats was also much damaged in the hurry of removal, and the poor people to whom it chiefly belonged, (the house being mostly let in small apartments,) have also to complain of the cupidity of some wretches, who, taking advantage of the confusion, and under the pretence of rendering humane assistance, carried many of their articles off.—But the most melancholy consequences of this accident are yet to

bestated. A woman named Easton, a widow, we believe, who inhabited one of the rooms destroyed, had returned to it unperceived, probably with a view to save something, and was burnt to death before her situation was known to those employed in extinguishing the flames. Another woman, who leapt from a window, had her leg broken, and was carried to the Royal Infirmary.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.—A file of the Colonial Times, published at Hobart Town, to the 7th April last, has been received. The magistrates appear at length to have resolved on the extermination of the bush-rangers, who had for a long time been enabled to commit their depredations with impunity, and had so far succeeded, that, with the exception of three, the whole of the principal ones had been apprehended and punished. The harvest throughout the colony is said to have been an abundant one. It was in contemplation to remove the seat of government from Hobart Town to New Norfolk; but we do not find any motive for the change assigned in those papers. Three commissioners had been appointed to make a survey of the whole Island; to apportion it into counties, hundreds, and parishes, and to survey and value the lands. By government it was directed, that from the 1st April, all contracts in the colony should be in the denomination of sterling money. The prosecution of Mr Bent, the printer of the Colonial Times, for a libel on the government, had for a long time occupied the attention of the colony. On the 29th March, Mr Bent came forward to receive the judgment of the Court, which was recorded by the Chief Justice to be, that Mr Bent be imprisoned three months—pay a fine to the King of L.200—and enter into recognizances for his good behaviour,

himself in L.200 and two sureties in L.100 each.

DREADFUL CATASTROPHE.—“**HOBART TOWN, March 17.**—It is with the most poignant feelings of regret we have to announce one of the most melancholy events which ever occurred in these colonies. About a year ago, Captain Wilson, of the Bengal army, arrived here, for the benefit of his health, which had suffered severely from long service in India. A few months ago, he went to reside at Kenmore, the estate of Charles Robertson, Esq. a Scotch gentleman of the first respectability, who arrived here as a settler, with his family, in 1822. Captain Wilson came to town a few days ago, and was observed to be in a very melancholy and disordered state of mind. He returned to Kenmore on Thursday evening. On Friday morning, he rose early, and, covering himself with a blanket, walked into the Derwent, which nearly surrounds Mr Robertson's estate, forming a peninsula. He returned, however, and joined the family at breakfast. Shortly afterwards, Mr and Mrs R. were in the grounds, near the house, when Mrs R. requested her husband to go into the house to Captain Wilson, whose incoherent language and manner had very seriously alarmed her. He did so. In a few minutes, two reports were heard, and upon the servants going into the dining-room, Mr Robertson was found seated on the sofa, weltering in his blood, having been shot dead by Captain Wilson, who had discharged one of the barrels of his double gun at Mr Robertson's throat; the contents of which had passed through the carotid artery, and, of course, produced instant death. Captain Wilson had discharged the other at himself, having, it appears, placed the muzzle close under his chin, the shot blowing away

part of his lower and upper jaw, his tongue, his teeth, displacing his left eye, and passing out at his forehead. The appalling spectacle can be better imagined than described! Captain Wilson, however, survives; and, excepting upon all subjects connected with this most dreadful event, writes upon paper with much clearness and composure. His insanity, however, is unquestionable. A Coroner's inquest sat on the lamented remains of Mr Robertson, and strange to say, returned the following most extraordinary verdict:—'Shot by Captain Wilson, who is insane.'

MAJOR LAING.—We noticed in last week's paper the arrival of Major Laing at Timbuctoo.—We are informed that subsequently to his leaving Twat, the caravan with which he was travelling was attacked and dispersed by a banditti of barbarous Arabs, in which attack the Major was unfortunately severely wounded in the shoulder, and his servant killed. This misfortune will, it is apprehended, oblige Major Laing to return again to Tripoli, instead of prosecuting his journey down the Niger, and solving the great geographical problem, the course and termination of that celebrated river. The *John Bull* says—"We have received a private letter via Marseilles, announcing the arrival of Major Laing at Timbuctoo. He had been attacked on his way to that place, and wounded in the shoulder, but had recovered; his servant was killed. If he should not meet Captain Clapperton, it is his intention to return to Tripoli, instead of proceeding to the Bight of Benin. Major Laing's anxiety to return to Tripoli is to be accounted for, by the fact, that he had married a daughter of Mr Warrington, the Consul there."

LORD COCHRANE'S STEAM-VESSLS.—The two steam-vessels, En-

terprise and the Irresistible, in which officers of the customs have been placed, are now lying within the tiers above Deptford Creek—a situation which has evidently been selected for the purpose of avoiding observation. On approaching them they give the spectator an impression that they are of foreign build, being totally unlike any of the steam-vessels hitherto constructed. Their sharp angular appearance is one of their greatest peculiarities, especially as the stern nearly resembles the bow; the former differs only in its more shark-like appearance, and it is said that the sharp point of the bow is intended for forcing its way, if necessary, into the sides of an enemy's ship on an occasion of close quarter. They lie low in the water, and are thus calculated to come suddenly and almost unobserved on the enemy. The burden being only 120 tons, they of course appear much smaller than could be expected from the nature of the service for which they are destined; but their smallness renders them fit for running in and out of creeks, and getting into shallow water, where they can throw, with impunity, shells into these coast towns of the enemy. The draught of water is only nine feet, and when the guns are in it, will be only ten feet. Both vessels are calculated to carry from 14 to 16 68-pounders, and probably two or three mortars; for in each vessel there is a shell-room, and the extraordinary strength and size of the timbers seem to justify the belief that they will be much employed in bombardment: The vessels are about one hundred and fifty feet in length, and twenty-five in width in the beam. Each vessel has two fifty-horse power steam-engines, and it is supposed that the rate at which they will travel will equal that of the largest steam-vessels. There

are three small-sized masts for sailing, but the reliance seems to be placed almost exclusively upon their steam power. Each vessel will carry from 50 to 60 hands, the accommodation for whom appears to be of a very limited description. The officers have very small cabins, and that intended for the Admiral on board the *Enterprise* is much smaller than the Captain's cabin in many merchant vessels. Everything seems to have been sacrificed to the warlike and important object for which these vessels were built; but as in warm climates it is usual for the crew to sleep on deck under an awning, the want of accommodation below will be less sensibly felt. The paddle-boxes are of a very peculiar construction. The starboard paddle-box contains a dressing room and bath for the Captain, and the larboard paddle-box is conveniently fitted up as a cook's galley, or kitchen. Taken altogether, the appearance of these vessels gives us the idea that they are likely to prove the most formidable engines of warfare which even the ingenuity of modern times has constructed.

20th.—SCARBOROUGH.—York was visited by a long-continued succession of flashes of lightning, but we are glad to remark that no serious accident occurred there. Scarborough, however, was visited the same night by one of the most tremendous storms of thunder and lightning ever remembered here. The rapid succession of the vivid flame immediately after the loud peals of thunder, struck every heart with awe, and made pale the most firm and lively countenance. At length the heavens seemed to open, and in the immensity of flame, which enveloped every individual and every object in the place, the commission of death assumed its terrors, and the day of general dissolution seemed at hand. It,

however, passed over; but among many less important effects, it was shortly afterwards discovered that the lightning had struck five individuals to the ground, who were sitting together in a private room; they were all dreadfully affected with the stroke. Medical assistance was instantly sent for; one of them, a respectable female, aged 25, the daughter of Mr Barker of York, clerk at the church of St Maurice, and one of the choristers at the Minster, was so seriously affected that she died soon after, and her disconsolate relatives and friends were yesterday sent for. She had been advised to go to Scarborough for the benefit of her health, having had a rheumatic fever. The others were in a dreadful state, but we have not yet heard the final result. Scarborough being crowded with company at present, this melancholy occurrence has struck a damp over every countenance, and is the subject of general conversation. Whether the lightning has been felt in any other part of the east coast, we have not yet heard; we sincerely hope not, for had any similar occurrence taken place, we doubt not but some of our correspondents would have given us the requisite information.

21st.—LANCASTER.—EXECUTION.—Alexander and Michael M'Keand, convicted at the Lancaster assizes of the dreadful murder at Winton, near Manchester, were executed on Monday, agreeably to their sentence. From the time that these unfortunate men entered the Castle, they appeared to resign all hopes of life, and to devote themselves, by the constant perusal of the Scriptures, and serious attention upon all devotional exercises, to preparation for their untimely fate. They were born and brought up in Scotland, and received a religious education, and they were considerably superior both in intellect and

station of life to the class of men who are usually tempted to commit the horrid crime for which they suffered. After their condemnation, their behaviour was perfectly decent and serious, and that of men fully sensible of their situation. We understand that Alexander M'Keand fully confessed his guilt, and he is said to have expressed some indignation when Michael persisted in denying that he was an accomplice in the murder. At half past seven o'clock on Monday morning, having joined in the last solemn exercises of religion, they were brought out on the scaffold erected between the Castle and the church-yard. They were immediately tied to the fatal beam, and the caps drawn over their faces; they grasped each other's hands in this last act of their existence, and it is to be hoped were as sincere in their mutual contrition as they had been united in their previous wickedness. Three or four minutes being left for a short address to their Maker, their mortal thread was cut, and they were launched into his immediate presence.

24th.—LONDON.—ILLICIT STILLS IN LONDON.—Information was received at the Excise-Office on Thursday last, about two o'clock, of an extensive illicit distillery being carried on at No. 3, Primrose Street, Bishopsgate Street. Four of the most vigilant officers of that establishment—Messrs Dinely, Gater, Gibbs, and Ellerm—were immediately dispatched to ascertain the truth of the statement. They found the premises barricaded in such a manner as to justify forcible entrance, which was made through an adjoining hay-loft, when to their astonishment they discovered a most extensive distillery, conveniently fitted up with every apparatus; but not a single individual was found upon the premises. Two stills were at work when the discovery was

made, the largest of which would hold 250 gallons, and the other 150 gallons. In the principal room was a vat capable of holding 1000 gallons, underneath which is a private vault, containing another still of considerable magnitude, which had recently been worked, the entrance into which, concealed by a sand stone, was a round hole, not more than 20 inches in diameter, so as to admit the body of a moderate-sized man. From all appearances, not less than 10 or 12 men had been employed. About 250 gallons of raw spirits were found on the premises, which are said to be 50 above proof. The occupier of the premises, who has since absconded, was carrying on trade as a manufacturer of colouring for spirituous liquors, under the name of Thomas Cole, and not the slightest suspicion has been previously entertained in the neighbourhood, of the distillery. Not less than seven discoveries of the same nature have been made within the last month in the metropolis, through the activity of the above officers.

Mr Daniel O'Connell, the Irish barrister, labours in his vocation of mischief-making. He is busy in arranging his new order of knighthood. By virtue of a mandate signed "Daniel O'Connell, of the order of Liberators," a solemn installation was held at Waterford on the 14th inst., when the statutes of that august body were passed and published. The poor people both in Dublin, and in the provinces, are suffering greatly from the combined operation of want and disease; but it does not appear that they derive much assistance from the patriots of the association. On the contrary, they are laying the poor under contribution in the name of another "Catholic rent," under the pretence of supporting the tenantry of the country against their landlords. It, however, seems that an application

has already been made from Waterford, for £.250 for the relief of the 40s. freeholders; and that the funds of the new association have not yet reached that amount. It was, therefore, proposed to "allocate" a sum from the old rent, "to meet all similar demands;" and this suggestion was approved by the association on Saturday.

23d.—KIRKALDY.—FATAL DUEL.—This morning, a meeting took place three miles to the north of Kirkaldy, between George Morgan, junior, Esq. and David Landale, Esq. both of Kirkaldy, the former attended by W. Millie, Esq. and the latter by Lieutenant Milne, R.N. The unfortunate difference between the parties is said to have originated in some business transactions, in consequence of which an occurrence took place on the street, and a challenge from Mr L. to Mr M. was the consequence. The parties met accordingly, and we regret to state, that on the first fire Mr Morgan received his adversary's ball in the left breast, and died upon the spot.

EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND.—A Report has been published by the Committee of the General Assembly, on increasing the means of Education and Religious Instruction in Scotland. From inquiries made, it was ascertained that in ten of the Synods of Scotland, comprising 764 parishes, and 1,716,126 persons, the means of education were so extensive, that there was scarcely an individual who had not been taught to read. In the remaining six Synods, viz. Argyll, Glenelg, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Orkney, and Zetland, containing 143 parishes, and 377,730 inhabitants, there was found to be a want of 250 schools, which it is computed would educate 10,500 children. There is also wanted 130 Catechists in these Synods for the religious instruction of the people, and the ten Lowland

Synods require six Catechists. The Committee, being authorized by the Assembly, proceeded to appoint schoolmasters in a few situations where they were most wanted, or where the necessary accommodations were provided or promised by the heritors. The accommodations are, 1st, a school-house; 2d, a dwelling-house; 3d, a small garden; 4th, fuel furnished gratis; and 5th, ground to maintain a cow. Where these are provided, the teacher is to be allowed £.20 or £.25 a year, with liberty to draw school fees equal to those of the parish school. In November last the first school was opened at Ullapool, in the parish of Loch Broom, which is 50 miles long, and 38 broad, and has 4747 inhabitants, of whom only 993 had been taught to read. The British Fishery Society provided a school-house. The school has been attended by about 150 scholars. A second school was established at Lochnaig in Argyllshire, and has about 80 scholars. At Tobermory, a school-house is prepared, and the Committee are endeavouring to find a teacher for this important station, where they expect a hundred scholars. Eight other stations are named in remote Highland districts, where accommodations are promised, and where the Committee have engaged to provide schoolmasters. Various other places are named, where the Committee expect shortly to plant schools; and altogether the number of schools opened, or engaged to be opened, by the Committee, amounts to 41. The Committee have prepared four Gaelic school-books, and have printed 5000 of each, the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge having engaged to purchase 2000 of each at prime cost. These have been prepared by Mr John McDonald, on the principle adopted in Dr Thomson's English school-books. The Committee intend to add

to these a small volume in Gaelic, of descriptive, narrative, moral, and religious pieces, of the nature of a collection, but meant, we presume, for the use of grown-up persons as well as youths. A set of English school-books has also been provided, as the English language will be taught more or less in all the schools. The books are not to be given away, but sold. The three first Gaelic school-books will cost 9d. in all; the set of English ones, 3s. The Committee have also had it under consideration to provide small and select libraries, to itinerate, like those established by Mr Samuel Brown in East Lothian. The report is highly deserving of public attention.

28th.—DUBLIN.—EXTRAORDINARY CASE.—HEAD OFFICE.—A young lady, moving in a respectable station in life, was yesterday committed to Newgate, from this Office, on a charge of shop-lifting. The circumstances of this case are rather curious, and possess in some respects a melancholy interest. This lady was to have been married on the very day that consigned her to disgrace and imprisonment, to an ignominious trial and punishment, for of her guilt, we fear, there is little doubt. She was detected on the previous evening, having gone into a fashionable shop in Dame Street, accompanied by another young lady, to purchase wedding favours. The young men in the shop were led to watch her narrowly, from having a few days before missed a crape shawl and some ribbons after this lady had been in the shop. On the present occasion she was observed to secrete a piece of white ribbon in her reticule, and a police-officer was sent for, who took her into custody, and brought her to the Head Office. She gave her name and address, and, on their being required, the keys of her trunk; on searching which, the offi-

cer found the missing shawl and ribbon, and L.50 in bank notes. The young lady who was in company with the prisoner was excessively shocked at the discovery of her friend's delinquency; she was, of course, immediately discharged; the other was kept in custody in the office during the night, and was yesterday brought up for farther examination. Little more transpired than we have already related, except that on the morning of her apprehension, she had gone into the shop of a respectable silversmith, where she purchased six teaspoons, but managed at the same time to secrete two or three trifling articles. The gentleman to whom she was to have been married appeared yesterday at the Police Office, where he endeavoured to console by his presence the object of his affections. It is a melancholy consolation to know, that the lady is not one of those who are occasionally found addicted to the vice of pilfering without the temptation of necessity. Whatever may have led her to it, in the present instance, it is evident from the effect her novel situation has produced upon her, that shame and anguish rend her breast; and we understand that those who saw her on the previous evening would scarcely have known her when she was brought before the Magistrates yesterday morning, although the humanity of Mr Farrell afforded her every accommodation her situation would admit of through the night.

31st.—GHERNOCK.—WATT'S MONUMENT.—A numerous and highly respectable meeting of the subscribers to the monument of our illustrious townsman, James Watt, was held in the Assembly Rooms on Wednesday the 30th August, at one o'clock. Sir M. S. Stewart having been called to the chair, he stated the object of the meeting, and shortly after, James Watt, Esq. of Solio. Sir Humphry

Davy, and Mr Maxwell, M.P. for the county, entered, and were received with the utmost acclamations. It was truly interesting to see the son of that great man, who has done so much for science, and who will long be remembered for his valuable discoveries, coming forward and addressing the townsmen of his late father, and subscribing L.2000 for the erection of a monument in that place, above all others, where a monument should be erected. It is impossible to enter into the spirit of the various speeches; they were not only eloquent, but to the point; and the bursts of applause with which they were received, showed that the sympathy of the meeting was in unison with that of the speakers. It was resolved that a building should be erected for a Mechanics' Institution and Library, and that a statue of the late James Watt, by Chantry, be placed in a conspicuous part of the same, fitted up expressly for it. The meeting was addressed by Sir M. S. Stewart, James Watt, Esq. Sir Humphry Davy, Mr Maxwell, M.P. Mr Smith of Jordanhill, Bailie Leitch, Dr Kirk, and Mr Farrie; after which, the thanks of the meeting having been voted to the Chairman, with loud applause, one of the most interesting meetings which has ever taken place in Greenock broke up.

APOCRYPHA CONTROVERSY.—This most important subject still occupies the attention of the country, and it must be gratifying to the lovers of pure circulation to know, that everywhere there is a decided opposition to the Apocryphal practices, which had prevailed in certain quarters, for a long period, and to a great extent.

The Bible Societies of Crawfordjohn, Lasswade parish, Dalkeith, and Dysart, Pathhead, and Sinclairtown, have expressed in strong terms their disapprobation of the conduct of the

British and Foreign Bible Society, and their acknowledgments to the Committee of the Edinburgh Bible Society, for their faithful and vigorous exertions in this good cause.

The Kirkaldy Bible Association have broken off from the British and Foreign Bible Society, and, in disposing of their funds, have sent L.20 to the Edinburgh Bible Society, in aid of the pocket edition of the Gaelic Bible, and L.8 to the Hibernian Bible Society, in aid of the pocket edition of the Bible in the Irish language and character.

On Wednesday the 16th August, the Dunkeld Bible Society held its annual meeting; and, after some animated discussion, dissolved its connexion with the Perthshire Bible Society; constituted itself into an independent institution; condemned the proceedings of the London Committee, on account of its practices as to the Apocrypha translations of the Scriptures, and Continental alliances; approved highly of what the Edinburgh Committee had done in this great question, and voted L.50 for the pocket Gaelic Bible.

The Montrose Bible Society, at their annual meeting, a few days ago, followed up an almost unanimous resolution of their Committee, by declaring that their union with the British and Foreign Bible Society was now dissolved, on account of the illegal and unjustifiable measures of that Society with regard to the Apocryphal circulation, and that they unite themselves with the Edinburgh Bible Society, with a determination to aid it to the utmost of their power. The Committee had previously sent L.20 to assist in printing the pocket Gaelic Bible.

We understand that the Committee of the Glasgow Auxiliary Bible Society, after numerous and long discussions, resolved, on Thursday the

the 20th August, by a majority of 19 to 8, that, in existing circumstances, the Glasgow Society shall cease to be auxiliary to the British and Foreign. This resolution falls of course to be submitted to the General Meeting; and, if it be sustained by that meeting, the Society must be dissolved. The probability is that a new Society will be formed on an independent footing, and this, it is to be hoped, will unite all the friends of pure Bible circulation in Glasgow, and render that distinguished city more productive than ever of resources for disseminating the word of God.

The annual meeting of the Stirlingshire Bible Society took place on Tuesday the 29th August. After some preliminary business, it was moved by the Rev. Dr Belfrage, Falkirk, and seconded by Mr Bankes, that the resolution of the Committee recommending delay in inquiry, be adopted by the Society. It was also moved by the Rev. Mr Clason of Logie, and seconded by the Rev. Mr M'Gachen of Airth, that there be an immediate separation of this Society from the British and Foreign Bible Society, and that it be constituted into a distinct and independent Institution—After a discussion of above four hours, in which the Rev. Mr Smart, Stirling; the Rev. Mr M'Kerrow, Doune; the Rev. Dr Belfrage, Falkirk; and John Campbell, Esq. of Carbrook, supported the first motion; while the second was supported by the Rev. Mr M'Gachen of Airth, the Rev. Mr Bullock of Tullisallan, and the Rev. Mr Bennie of Stirling, Dr Belfrage's motion was withdrawn; and for the second, the following motion, made by the Rev. Mr Kerr of Polmont, and seconded by the Rev. Mr Bonar of Larbert and Dunipace, viz. that the Auxiliary Bible Society for Stirlingshire and its vicinity, be no longer an auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible So-

ciety; that it must be constituted into an independent Society, and that it appropriate its funds in the way that is most effectual for disseminating the Word of God. This motion was carried and adopted unanimously.

SEPTEMBER.

FIFE AND MID-LOTHIAN FERRIES.

3—CUPAR-FIFE.—An adjourned General Meeting of the Trustees was held, for the purpose of letting those ferries by public roup—J. A. Thomson, Esq. of Charlton in the chair. After some preliminary discussion, the articles of roup were read, and some slight alterations made upon them. Mr Barclay, town-clerk of Kinghorn, then rose to intimate that a bill of Suspension and Interdict had been applied for by the Magistrates of that burgh against the Trustees' deserting it as a ferry station; and read the Ordinary's interlocutor, which refused the interdict prayed for, but interdicted the desertion of Kinghorn as a ferry station *until* the bill comes to be advised with answers. The Earl of Rosslyn then read a protest subscribed by himself and others against the proposed lease as illegal, and against their being held responsible for anything to be done at this meeting, or in consequence thereof. Mr Webster, writer in Cupar, for the Magistrates of Dysart, protested against the proposed lease as inconsistent with the rights to a ferry acquired by the burgh. A protest, to nearly the same effect, was given in for the Magistrates of Kirkaldy. Mr Stuart observed, that with respect to the protest from Dysart, he begged to read the clause of the act of Parliament relating thereto. (The substance of which seemed to be, that if the Trustees deserted Dysart as a ferry station, the slip or pier built by

them should become the property of the Magistrates for the community.) It was quite clear, he said, if the lessee gave up Dysart as a ferry station, he must do it with all the risk under the act. In all the three burghs, however, there appeared to be a strong desire to thwart a great public measure. But he had not a doubt, though these attempts were to be made, that there was enough of public spirit and energy yet remaining in the county to repel them.—(*Applause.*)—The ferries were then exposed to roup for ten years, when Mr P. Irvine, W. S. who acted as Mr Greenhill's agent, offered 1850*l.* a-year for the first two years, and 2000*l.* per annum for the remaining eight years. Mr Herriot of Ramornie, who was named judge of the roup, having three different times called upon offerers to come forward, and none appearing, declared the ferry to be let, in terms of the conditions of roup, to Mr Greenhill, at the above rent. Heritable and personal security of the most satisfactory nature, to the amount of 20,700*l.* was then tendered on the part of Mr Greenhill, and unanimously accepted of; and a committee was named, Mr Stuart to be convener, to carry through all the other details relative to the measure. A letter from Mr Cunningham, one of the town-clerks of Edinburgh, relative to the proposition of erecting a pier at Wardie, was then read, and ordered to be entered on the minutes. It stated that the Magistrates of Edinburgh would oppose any change that might have the effect of injuring the Port of Leith, of which Newhaven was a part. (Wardie is beyond that jurisdiction.) A report, by the Magistrates of Leith, to the committee of the inhabitants of that town in the proposed removal of the ferries from Leith, was also noticed in the same way. This report contain-

ed the following remarkable sentence:—"The introduction of steam navigation has rendered nugatory the advantages expected from two landing places on each side of the Frith, in giving sailing boats a greater facility in approaching one of them, and it has now become an object to concentrate the whole business of the ferry at one point of each side." The meeting, after some routine business, then adjourned.

EMIGRATION FROM CHINA.—It appears that a considerable emigration has lately taken place from China to Singapore, and from thence to the neighbouring islands. In February last, a Chinese junk arrived at Singapore, from the province of Quangtung, which brought 870 emigrants, most of them destitute of everything except the clothes on their backs. A day or two after their arrival, 300 of them embarked for Rhio, and 100 more distributed themselves among the neighbouring settlements. On the 2d of March, another junk arrived at Singapore, from the same place, with emigrants to the number of 1050. The smallness of the passage money facilitates emigration, each emigrant paying but six dollars, for which he also receives food during the passage.

4th.—LONDON.—A meeting of persons interested in the Greek cause, was held on Monday, at the City of London Tavern, for the purpose of taking into consideration the manner in which the loans had been expended.

The Hon. Colonel Stanhope was called to the chair.

Mr Robertson said he was the individual who had advertised the meeting, and trusted he should not be charged with presumptuousness. It was now a year and a half since the last loan was raised for the immediate object of assisting the Greeks, and

yet they now are in a worse state than at that period. Had the money been judiciously applied, the steam-boats, which were now lying in the Thames would have been employed with advantage. 160,000*l.* or 180,000*l.* had been appropriated to fit out vessels, and yet none had proceeded to their destination. He feared the money would be found to have been frittered away. He hoped that those who had had the management of the funds would come forward and explain.

Mr Bowring said, that since his earliest infancy, he had been connected with the cause of Greece, and no heart beat higher for its success than his. He would say with respect to the accounts he should read, that no motives of a personal nature were entertained. He had received a statement drawn up by the late Greek Committee, from which it appeared that they had received on account of the last loan 1,100,000*l.* Out of this sum there had been set apart for dividends 200,000*l.*; there had been paid to Mr Ricardo, the contractor, 64,000*l.* for his commission. (Cries of show, show.) There had been purchased of the old stock as a sinking fund, bonds which cost 113,200*l.*; there had been transmitted to America, for the construction of two vessels, 155,000*l.* Paid to General Lallemand 12,000*l.*; do. to a Greek officer sent to America to inspect the building of the vessels, 4000*l.* Mr Ricardo had purchased Greek bonds to keep up the credit of the loan bonds, which cost 67,895*l.* The expenses incurred to the Greek Deputies amounted to 7910*l.* Remittances to the Greek government 182,400*l.* Paid for purchase of canon, &c. 57,000*l.*, which with the sum of 80,000*l.* to be paid to Mr Galloway, the engineer, for the construction of two steam-vessels, &c. and a small

balance would make up the sum received from the contract of the loan.

Colonel Stanhope said, the account could be relied on, and it was sent by the Greek government to the committee here. While in Greece, the inhabitants seemed to think that money, and money alone, would lead to their deliverance. He had endeavoured to impress upon their minds the necessity of using their vigour, and had recommended them to trust their money and their cause to an iron-fisted Englishman, one who possessed the soul of chivalry, than whom a braver man never existed—he meant Lord Cochrane (loud applause.)—It would seem that there was fault somewhere, and he thought Mr Ricardo had acted too much like a banker, paying with one hand and receiving with the other, instead of judiciously employing the means to the end contemplated. As soon as the Greeks lost Napoli, Hydra, and Athens, no longer would the Greek government be acknowledged by other states. Measures ought therefore to be adopted to avert such a crisis.

A bond-holder said, he had dated all the disasters of the Greeks from the fate of Navarino. If steam-boats had been sent out to protect that place, the hordes from Egypt would not have overrun the classic soil of Greece.

Mr Robertson then moved a resolution, that a Committee be appointed to inquire into the appropriations of the loans, and to report. This was carried, and Colonel Stanhope, Mr Robertson, Mr Bowring, Mr Lousada, Mr Provost, Mr Hume, Mr W. Bailey, Major Cochrane, Mr J. Holbrook, and the Duc D'Albert, were named as forming the Committee.

Mr W. Bailey said, with respect to the steam-vessels, Mr Galloway had recovered 13,000*l.* in part of his contract. Mr Galloway had had an

interview with the Greek Committee, and the boats would be ready to sail in six weeks. Thanks were voted to the Chairman, and the meeting adjourned.

AFRICAN EXPEDITION.—It is most satisfactory to learn, though there are no recent accounts from Captain Clapperton, R. N. and Mr Dixon, who are engaged in the arduous service of tracing the Niger from the Atlantic shores to Timbuctoo, that Mr Houston, who accompanied Captain Clapperton up the country towards Yourie, and returned to Whydah Roads, after being absent four months, gives the most satisfactory accounts of the progress of the mission up to the arrival at Katunga. He says, “the climate in the interior is so much finer than on the coast, that I was only sick one day. We were everywhere, throughout this long journey, received with the greatest kindness and esteem by the Cabouceers, and by the people with acclamations. Provisions are in the greatest abundance, and carriers for the baggage were furnished at every stage, by order of the King; and, from the time we left Badagry until my return, not even the value of a cowrie was missed, nor did King, Cabouceers, or a slave, even beg so much as onc. This is surely unprecedented in the annals of African discovery. I left Katunga Eyco on the 14th March, and arrived at Badagry on the 12th April, having been absent four months and five days—50 days in Katungá, which is a large city, having a wall from twelve to fifteen miles in circumference, part of the ground within being planted with corn, yams, onions, &c. Like Dahomey it is distant from the Niger or Quavia river about 30 miles, and about 350 from Badagry, but above 400, taking the winding course of the road. The country is varied with

hill and dale, prosperous and beautiful, great part like that behind Whydah, clear of wood, and well cultivated.”

8th.—CARLISLE.—A great sensation was excited in Carlisle, by a report that a woman had been murdered in a field at St Nicholas, just outside the southern suburb of the city. The rumour was too correct. Many persons hastened to the spot, and there they found, weltering in her blood, mortally wounded, a woman named Mary Brown. The perpetrator of the crime is Philip Tinneley, a man who has usually had a stall in Carlisle market, and sold cotton balls, and other small wares. It appears that Brown was a woman of loose character: Her husband, Henry Brown, is a whitesmith, at Whitehaven; and, it is said, cohabits with another woman. He lately resided at Penrith, but is a native of Witheral, near Carlisle. He and his wife had lived separately for some time past, on account, we are informed, of her unchaste and disorderly conduct. Thus left to herself, she pursued the path of vice, and fell in with Tinneley, with whom she indulged in improper intercourse; nevertheless, they often quarrelled. At length, on Wednesday last, it would appear, Tinneley induced her to accompany him into the field spoken of, where he inflicted several mortal wounds upon her head with a hammer. The poor woman fell under the blows, apparently dead; and Tinneley stood over her, with an intention of burying the body; but she at this moment opened her eyes, and looked upon him so reproachfully, that he shrunk from his purpose, and quitted the field. He then went fourteen or fifteen miles into Scotland; but, conscience-stung, returned, and on Thursday afternoon, repaired to the spot where he had left his victim, and was horror-struck at finding her

still living. He hastily retired from the scene of blood, and went to the house of some of his acquaintances, to whom he confessed the deed that he had done. The unfortunate woman was removed to her former lodging, where she died this morning at three o'clock. Tinneley was taken into custody on Thursday evening, and is now in jail.

THE LIBERATORS INSTALLED.—On Wednesday evening, at a Catholic meeting, held in St Patrick's Chapel,—Mr Edward Kelly, of the Quay, in the chair,—Daniel O'Connell, Esq. was, in pursuance of a vote, decorated by the chairman with the medal of the Order of Liberators. Next day, Mr O'Connell conferred the same decorations upon other individuals. —*Waterford Mirror.*

9th.—**DUBLIN.**—A Catholic Aggregate meeting was held, at which it was solemnly resolved to make the old Catholic rent applicable to the relief of the forty-shilling freeholders (who are pressed by their landlords for rent, in consequence of voting against them at the late election,) by advancing sums in the way of loan. This resolution is to be acted upon if the three treasurers please, who, it seems, having the money in their possession, are to dispose of all the resolutions which the aggregate meeting, or any other meeting, may adopt, exactly as they think proper. One of these gentlemen, being asked what course he would take, replied, that in the absence of his brother treasurers, he could not answer the question, whether or not he would pay the money which they might vote. The resolutions, however, were carried, and mainly through the exertions of Mr Shiel, who overthrew the sophistry by which his absent friend, Mr O'Connell, had endeavoured to keep the fund entire, in a masterly style. After thus demolishing the fabric which Mr O'Con-

nell had been so anxious to raise and to preserve, he felt that something must be done to appease the first wrathful feelings, which the resolution just carried was likely to excite in that patriot, and he accordingly moved a vote of thanks to the orator, whose policy it had been the object of that day's proceedings to annihilate. This was carried of course, but not without a very pithy question on the subject being asked by Mr W. O'Reilly, who wished to know whether the vote was passed on account of Mr O'Connell "having refused to give the 40s. freeholders a penny of the old rent?"

ENGLISH BOARD OF STAMPS.—The 13th Report of the Commissioners for inquiring into the Collection and Management of the Revenues arising in Scotland, Ireland, &c. has just been published. It relates entirely to the conduct of the Board of Stamps in London, and makes some very curious disclosures. It appears that the public business is impeded and thrown back, at every stage, by the remiss and slovenly manner in which the Commissioners of this Board discharge the duties of their office, and by the personal hostility which exists between Mr Sedgwick, the Chairman, and Mr Hallam, the most experienced, and best versed in the statutes of all the Commissioners. Though they ought to meet daily, it is seldom that so many out of the whole seven assemble as to constitute a quorum; from a deference to Mr Sedgwick, on the one hand, and Mr Hallam, on the other, (which two gentlemen always happen to entertain opposite views,) they seldom, as a body, decide any question which comes before them; and, as a consequence, individual Commissioners give directions which should proceed only from the Board. This being altogether illegal, it is hinted in the Report, that many

measures, undertaken by the officers of the crown upon the recommendation nominally of the Board, may be brought under challenge. The Treasury can get no returns to their inquiries from this Board, till after the most vexatious delays. Owing to its negligence, the Secretary, Solicitor and Comptroller of the legacy duties, experience the greatest difficulties in conducting their business ; and even this very Commission of Inquiry had to wait nine months before it could get from the Board certain accounts which it required, "although accounts of a similar nature had been transmitted to it in a less number of weeks from other departments," and when the accounts were furnished, they were in so unsatisfactory a state as to require to be amended. Though the Board is bound to satisfy itself of the correctness of all money orders issued by it upon the Receiver-General, it trusts implicitly to the honesty of those in the subordinate offices who prepare the orders ; and it has become a custom with some of the Commissioners, when they go to the country, which they severally do for months, to leave behind them blank orders with their signatures affixed. One prominent charge against the Board is, that various representations made to it by the officers in Scotland, with a view to the security and better collection of the revenue, had not been properly attended to. It is noticed also, that several of the Commissioners are personally connected with concerns over which the Board has an official superintendence. The Chairman is a principal and directing proprietor of a daily newspaper, the British Press, although another individual is registered at the Stamp Office, as the ostensible proprietor, which person must have sworn that he was the *bona fide* proprietor. The Chairman, and other Commissioners,

also, are directors of insurance companies. In conclusion, the Commission of Inquiry states, that it cannot "help entertaining strong doubts whether any satisfactory change is to be expected in the business of this department, while the present composition of the Board remains unaltered ;" and it proposes, that while "the superintending authority is vested in a Board in London, the collection of the stamp duties in Scotland and Ireland should be conducted by subordinate establishments under its direction and control, and respectively presided over by one of its members." Upon this last proposal some obvious remarks suggest themselves, which we must suppress for the present.

Mr Sedgwick's evidence is of a singular complexion. He may be right, and the Commission of Inquiry very wrong ; but there is something like a spirit of bullying displayed in his answers, which contrasts strikingly with his extreme reluctance to meet certain of the questions put to him. There is a bitterness of feeling—we might almost say fierceness—in his various allusions to two lamented gentlemen, now no more, who held situations in the Edinburgh Stamp Office. One of those gentleman had proposed that the duty upon the assay of plate in Glasgow should be paid to the head distributor in Edinburgh, instead of the distributor there, whereby the poundage might be saved ; to which proposal no answer was made by the Board. He had also suggested, that the advertisement duty on the Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Dumfries newspapers should be paid to the head office, as was the case with other Scotch county newspapers, in order to save the per centage to the sub-distributors ; of which suggestion the Board took no notice. Mr Sedgwick was questioned as to those two facts ;

and he disposes of them by certain remarks, which, to say the least of them, are as irrelevant as they are ill-natured.

Mr Sedgwick has commenced publishing a series of letters, addressed to the Right Hon. Thomas Wallace, Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry, in which, so far as he has gone, he asserts, that he has ample materials to show, that there exist latent grounds of hostility towards him personally, the proofs of which he will lay before the public. He takes credit for his exertions to put down a number of abuses, both as Chairman of the Scotch Excise Board, and as Chairman of the English Board of Stamps, and for the great trouble he has had in bearing up against the machinations, which, he says, to this day have baffled all his attempts to remove those abuses.

13th.—BURNTISLAND.—The new system of the ferries commenced this day, and as the subject had excited an extraordinary interest at Burntisland, the day had quite the appearance of a jubilee. The steam-boat was decked in holiday trim, with a few extra streamers; and a band of music, which was placed on board, continued to serenade the passengers during all the twelve trips performed in the course of the day. A crowd assembled at six in the morning to witness the departure of the boat, which left the shore amidst shouts loud enough to have wakened Neptune and all his Tritons from their slumbers. At both sides, indeed, the landing-place was covered by a multitude during the whole day, and the boat arrived and departed amidst cheers, each time, till she closed her labours at night. If the two first days might be taken as an example of what the new arrangements are likely to produce, the result was most encouraging. On Wednesday and Thursday, 795 pas-

sengers crossed between Newhaven and Burntisland, which exceeds the average number who passed at this point under the old system nearly fourfold. All were loud in their praises of the change. The Burntisland people are in high spirits, and hail Mr Greenhill as the Lyncurgus who is to make their small town a great city; for they anticipate a vast accession to the population, wealth, and business of the place from the improvement of the ferry. A party of Mr Greenhill's friends gave him a dinner on the occasion, in Ross' Inn—Mr Stewart of Dunearn being in the chair, and Mr Cunningham of Duloch, croupier. The ferry and the persons connected with it, were the subject of many speeches and toasts.

15th.—DUNDEE.—It appears from the declarations which have been taken regarding the sloop Archduke, which disappeared from our harbour some time back, that instead of being theftously carried away, she had of her own accord run off with a drunk man on board, Alexander Mitchell, one of her crew. According to his statement he had gone on board, on the Sunday evening, "half seas over," and lain down upon the deck, where he fell asleep. On coming to his senses, next morning, he found that the vessel had drifted away with him during the night, and was then about twenty miles off the land. In this ticklish situation he succeeded in getting the vessel put into a sailing trim, and about ten o'clock on the Monday evening she neared St Abb's Head. With great exertion he continued to tack the sloop to keep her to windward, till being quite exhausted, he abandoned her in despair, and took to the boat, about five o'clock on Tuesday morning—leaving the solitary bark under sail with her head to the south. He had gone ashore in the

neighbourhood, near Redhugh, and after some time, observing that the vessel had run a-ground, and seeing persons on board, he put off in the boat for the purpose of reaching her, when he was picked up, as formerly stated. The story was credited, and he was set at liberty.

20th.—LONDON.—SEDUCTION AND SUICIDE.—An inquest was held at the Crown, Hampstead, on the body of Miss Hynde, not seventeen years of age, the daughter of a respectable farmer residing in that neighbourhood. The evidence adduced fully corroborated the following statement :—About four months ago the deceased had the misfortune to become acquainted with a Captain Nicholls, of the Dragoon Guards, whose attentions and assiduities were so marked, that Mr Hynde asked an explanation of his intentions, which appeared satisfactory, and he continued his visits. On Wednesday se'ennight, he took her to the English Opera House, and at half past nine, pretending they should be too late for the Hampstead stage, induced her to leave the Theatre. Instead, however, of going in the right direction, of which indeed she was ignorant, he wiled her to a house of ill fame in a court near Leicester Square, where she was plied with deleterious compounds which bewildered her reason, and she fell an easy prey to a designing villain. She lay in a death-like stupor for an hour and a half, and on her partial recovery, found that her betrayer had left her. With great difficulty, the fainting and unhappy victim of treachery got out of the house, and dragged her weary way homewards, where she arrived about two in the morning. The consciousness of her misery preyed upon her mind so powerfully, that she procured a quantity of laudanum, which, from her respectability, was given to her without difficulty

or suspicion, and drank it to the dregs. She died on Tuesday. The Coroner, on summing up, strongly commented on the conduct of Captain Nicholls, and the jury returned a verdict of "Insanity."

21st.—LONDON.—MEETING AT THE BANK OF ENGLAND.—The usual Quarterly Meeting of the Proprietors of Bank Stock took place on Thursday, for the purpose of declaring the half-yearly dividend. This was declared to be four per cent interest and profits, for the half year ending 10th October next. The dividend warrants to be delivered on the 11th.

Mr Young begged to draw the attention of the proprietors to various subjects of interest. 'He spoke of Branch Banks, which would confer incalculable advantages on the public, but be of little or no benefit to the proprietors, unless government extend their charter. He then alluded to the report in circulation of the intention of the Directors to lower the rate of interest, to which he strongly objected.

The Chairman said, that he had no information to communicate as to any reduction of the rate of discount, inasmuch as the Court of Directors had meditated no change in that respect since December last. With respect to Branch Banks, the honourable gentleman had said that they ought to have made an arrangement with government for a prolongation of their charter. It was strongly impressed upon the Court that at the meeting of the 3d February last, it had been shown that the Court of Directors had done everything that depended upon them to obtain that advantage. With reference to the establishment of Branch Banks, what gave rise to that proceeding was so well known, as to require no information from him. It was well known, that out of the range of London, in some instances the circulation was

not managed with all the discretion that might have been beneficially employed. The circumstances of the case rendered it necessary, for the welfare of the whole community, that that mighty establishment should step in for the relief of those parts. (Hear.) The government, under the then state of the country, had called upon that powerful establishment to come forward and uphold the interests, credit, and prosperity of the State. That Company had answered the call. Branch Banks had been established in parts where there was hardly any circulation, and where the country was languishing from want of it. He instanced Gloucester as one place, where a Bank had been established. The conduct they meant to pursue was the same straight-forward, liberal, correct, and accurate mode of business, as was adopted here in London; without that it would be of no use. The country wanted reform in the system of banking, not an adherence to the old system. So much then for the cause of these Branch Banks. They were prepared to go to every town which wanted them. They went not to overwhelm or compete with establishments conducted on sound principles of discretion; they wished only to relieve those necessities which mismanagement had created. He hoped that the Company would have credit for honest, pure, and liberal intentions; and he was sure that their proprietors would never have to blush at the decision or the conduct of their Court of Directors. The honourable proprietor had asked if it was the intention of the Directors to advance money on deposits, to which he should decidedly say they had no such intention.

Mr Young thanked the Chairman for the handsome manner in which he had answered his questions, after which the Court adjourned.

HIGHLAND SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND.

17th. — GLASGOW.—The great Agricultural Meeting, and Show of Stock, under the patronage of the Highland Society of Scotland, took place this day at Glasgow. The day was, upon the whole, favourable for the exhibition; and in the general interest excited, and the number of stock exhibited, this meeting has outdone every exhibition which has ever yet occurred in Scotland. The new and spacious market-place, the interior arrangements of which, by the exertions of the magistrates, were completed just in time for this show, is a model of all that can be required for the simple and easy arrangement of an immense collection of cattle, horses, and sheep, and for the safe and comfortable accommodation of a very numerous assemblage of spectators. The eagerness of the public, however, for admission at a very early hour, and the necessity of preventing that admission till the animals were distinctly arranged, and the judges had done their duty of surveying them, occasioned a pressure at the gate, which was very inconvenient and even dangerous, during the time it lasted, but which eventually was remedied, so as to afford better accommodation to the concourse at the entry.

As the stock was the most numerous which has ever been exhibited, so in some of the departments, in point of quality, it has never been exceeded. Of the cattle shown, the great strength lay in the Ayrshire breed; the greatest number of premiums for this district having naturally been selected for that description of stock. In addition to those offered by the Highland Society, the City of Glasgow had added seven premiums in the same department,

and the whole were divided into classes for Fat Oxen, Bulls, Milch Cows, two year old and yearling Heifers.

In this collection of Ayrshire stock, the exhibition was very fine. Eight oxen were exhibited for the premium to the ox showing the most symmetry, fat, and weight; and the 1st and 2d premiums (although by the regulations he can only receive one) were awarded to the Duke of Montrose, for Romulus, 5½ years old, and Rover 4½, two oxen of uncommon weight, and great symmetry; and which were immediately sold on the spot for 120 sovereigns. For the information of the curious, an extract is made from the pedigree, &c. of these wonderful animals. "They were both bred by his Grace at Buchanan. Romulus's dam, Jean, was bought from Mr Brown of Waterhaugh, in Ayrshire, and got by Adam which was bred by Mr Kirkwood, farmer, near Dunlop, Ayrshire; Rover's dam, Forth, was bought from Mr Forrester, in Stirlingshire, and got by Platoff, which was the property of Professor Jeffrey, and sold to Sir A. Campbell, Garscube." The oxen were well kept from their birth, in good pasture during summer, and in a straw yard during winter, and fed on turnips, hay, and straw, till they were put up to fatten in December last; they were then in good condition, and have since been fed on turnips, potatoes, oats in the straw, bruised grain, hay, tares, and grass. Mr Lorne Campbell of Roseneath, Mr Stewart of Bonnyhill, near Glasgow, and Mr M'Jannet of Drumshang, in Ayrshire, exhibited fine specimens of fat oxen in this class.

In selecting the best bulls of the Ayrshire breed, the judges had a very difficult task. No less than 22 were exhibited, and it required nice powers of discrimination, and a fre-

quent passage along the line, to make the first reduction of these numbers; from which the successful three were ultimately chosen. These three were afterwards paraded, when the judgment was pronounced, and it then required a very practised eye to select the order in which they should be placed. The 1st premium of ten sovereigns was awarded to Mr John Buchanan of Finnith, (near Drymen, in Stirlingshire), for a bull bred at Allanton, and 4 years old. The second premium of five sovereigns was awarded to Mr John Young of Coneypark, (near Kilsyth, in Stirlingshire), for a very fine bull, 5 years old; and the 3d to Mr M'Adam of Blairgover's bull, bred near Dalry, Ayrshire, and six years old. From those that remained, a very valuable selection might still have been made. It is difficult to mention names, but the Duke of Montrose's, and a bull bred by Lord Alloway, which by an accident was disqualified from competition, ought not to be passed in silence.

The milch cows of the Ayrshire breed were exhibited in two classes—one for the Society's premium, offered for single cows, not under 3 years old—and another offered by the city of Glasgow, for lots of 3 milch cows, "belonging to the same person, and above three years old." For the first of these, 27 exhibitors were entered, and, after a very minute and detailed examination, and some difficulty, and a good deal of discussion, the judges came to the conclusion, that the first premium (ten sovereigns) should be awarded to a cow, the property of Mr Dennistoun of Golfhill, aged 7 or 8, and bred by Mr Richards, near Kilmaurs, in Ayrshire. The second premium (five sovereigns) was assigned to a 5 year old, belonging to Mr Patrick Graham of Limekilns; and the third (three sovereigns) to Mr John Robertson of Shitterfelt, for a cow.

aged 8, bred by Mr Hugh Robertson near Dalry.—From what remained of this class, too, an excellent selection might still have been made; the stock shown by Mr Harvey of Barns of Clyde, in this and other classes, were deservedly noticed; and another cow, the property of Mr Graham of Limekilns, (a six year old, and bred by Mr Hugh Jack, near Kilmaurs,) was so much noticed, and so universally admired, that, by desire of the Marquis of Tweeddale, who was present, and who, as Vice-President of the Society, conducted the proceedings of the day, she was walked past in company with the winners at the conclusion of the show.

In the other class of Ayrshire cows there were no fewer than 14 exhibitors, each producing a lot of three cows belonging to himself, and above three years old.

The first premium (10 sovereigns) was awarded to Mr Graham of Limekilns. The second (5 sovereigns) to Mr Malcolm Brown of Balcarroch Haugh, near Campsie, for a lot bred by himself; and the third premium (3 sovereigns) was taken by John McCowat of Barns of Clyde, near old Kilpatrick. It is quite impossible, in the limits of the present report, to do any justice to the merits of the animals belonging to this class—the difficulty to the exhibitor being so much increased by his being required to produce three of the same stamp and character. In Mr Brown's case, where the animals were not merely his property, but bred by himself, the merit is the more conspicuous.

We come next to the two year old heifers of the Ayrshire breed, in which sixteen lots were entered. Each exhibitor was required to produce two, *bona fide* his own property; and in almost all the cases, they were likewise bred by the exhibitors themselves. The first premium (10 sove-

reigns) was taken by a pair produced by Mr McMillan of Parklea, in the county of Lanark. The second (five sovereigns) by a pair exhibited by Mr Kennedy of Dunure; and the third (3 sovereigns) by a pair bred by Mr William Reid of Allanton, in the county of Lanark.

For the class of yearling heifers of the Ayrshire breed, 26 lots of a pair in each were entered for exhibition. Mr James Newbigging of Poniell, near Douglas, in the county of Lanark, carried the first premium of 10 sovereigns, for a pair bred by himself; Mr William Pollock of Titwood the second (5 sovereigns); and the third (3 sovereigns) by Mr John Anderson of Smithston, near Cumbernauld, for a pair bred by himself.

The above six classes exhaust the different kinds of Ayrshire stock exhibited at the Show for the regular premiums. There were a great variety of fine animals of this breed shown, besides an extra stock, which will be noticed afterwards.

In the class of the West Highland oxen, the premiums were offered for those animals which showed most symmetry, fat, and weight. The first premium was awarded to a beautiful 5 year old ox, fed by Mr Stirling of Keir, on grass, turnips, hay, and a little corn. This animal was considered perfect in his points, and very fat. In size he was inferior to the ox which carried the second premium, viz. one of two magnificent animals shown by the Marquis of Bute, and bred by his lordship. They were put up to feed at Mount Stewart, in November last, on turnip and rye-grass hay, and since 20th May last their food has been grass and beanmeal, mixed with barley dust. The one selected for the premium was a splendid animal, and excited great admiration, and some little awe, within the circle where the awards were pronounced. There were

fine specimens in this class, produced by Mr Lorne Campbell of Roseneath, and Mr Kirkman Finlay of Castle Toward.

There was a little demur in awarding the shorthorn premium to an ox, produced by Mr Stirling of Keir, from a defect in certificate, in consequence of which the purity of his breed was not established. But as he was undoubtedly the best of the lot, and exhibited much of the character of the breed, and in other respects was a very fine animal, the committee came to the determination that he was entitled to the premium.

Mr John Dudgeon of Loanhead, near Kirkliston, in the county of Linlithgow, carried the premium for the best ox of any breed crossed with the short horn. This animal was bred by Mr James Trotter of Newton, between a short horn bull and a cow; is now two and a half years old, of great size and symmetry, and has been fed only on grass, turnips, and a little corn. His competitors showed excellent specimens of the cross between the short horn and the Ayrshire breeds, viz.—Mr Houston of Johnston, Mr Forrest of Forrest, and Mr Brown of Netherlaurie.

Before leaving the subject of the cattle, it is proper to notice that out of an immense display of extra stock of various kinds, honorary medals were awarded,—

1. To Kirkman Finlay, Esq. for a pair of oxen of the West Highland breed.

2. To Sir John Maxwell of Pollock, for two 4 year old heifers, a black and brindled, of the West Highland breed, and reared by Mr M'Neil of Colonsay. These heifers were thought by the judges to be the best stock exhibited at the show.

3. To Mr John Dudgeon of Loanhead near Kirkliston, Linlithgowshire, for two polled oxen of the Angus-shire, breed.

4. To the Duke of Montrose, for two Ayrshire heifers, bred by his Grace.

A little bull and cow, of an extraordinary breed, from the Island of Madeira, the property of Mr Cross Buchanan, of Auchintoshan, were among the curiosities of the show yard, which attracted the notice of the meeting.

Although this district is not very much adapted for breeding sheep, it must always be a very material one for the consumption of them; and accordingly a few premiums were added by the Society, for blackfaced wedders; and for wedders of any age, and of any cross with the blackfaced breed, by which the quality of the wool might be improved without a material falling off of the carcase. In the first of these classes there was a very sharp competition, and one which caused considerable difficulty to a very intelligent set of judges. The result was in favour of a pen of five blackfaced wedders, the property of Mr William Thomson of Glasgow, bought from Mr Rennie of Cramond, in April last. The other exhibitors, who need consider it no disgrace to be in the unsuccessful list on this occasion, were, Mr Bogue of Woodhall, in East Lothian; Mr Ewing of Glasgow, Mr Forrest of Forrest, Mr Hannah of Glasgow, and Mr Macclaurin of Bothwell Haugh.

Of the crosses with the blackfaced sheep there were several lots. The competition lay between a lot belonging to Mr Hannah of Glasgow, and bred by Mr Gillespie, being a cross between the Cheviot and blackfaced—and a lot exhibited by Mr Kennedy of Dunure, of a cross between the Welch ram and the blackfaced ewe. These lots were regarded by the judges with a great deal of attention, and they found it necessary to state in detail the grounds upon which they came to their determination. They

considered Mr Hannah's lot the fattest, being four years old, and fed sheep; whereas Mr Kennedy's were only two year olds, and had been kept in a holding on state. But as they considered Mr Kennedy's higher bred, and that they would become better sheep at the same age, and with the same advantages, and moreover, that they were greatly superior in their fleeces to the other lot, they, therefore, were of opinion, that Mr Kennedy's were most deserving of the premium; and it was accordingly so awarded. Mr Hugh M'Janet, of Drumshang, exhibited a lot of the same cross between the Welsh ram and blackfaced ewe, and also some rams of the same cross, which were well worthy of observation; and produced ten fleeces, which excited great interest, as a proof of the rapid improvement of a single cross.

Four Tups were exhibited as extra stock, by Mr M'Donald of Staffa, very remarkable for their size, symmetry; and fat. They are a class between the indigenous whitefaced breed of Scotland, with the large sheep from the Cape of Good Hope. The increased fineness of wool is said to be obtained by a dash of the Merino.

Mr Adam Boguc of Snawdon, East Lothian, gained an honorary medal for 20 dinmoths, a cross between the Cheviot and Leicester, thought to be the best sheep at the show; and Mr MacLaurin of Bothwell Haugh, a similar medal for 29 widders of the blackfaced breed.

Some fine pigs of Sir John Sebright's breed were exhibited by the Right Hon. Lord Blantyre. Some of the Berkshire breed by Mr Dunlop at Auchans, and Mr Lowndes at Arthurlie. Some of Scotch extract, by Mr Thomas Armstrong, of Glasgow, Mr Peter Thomson, Woodend, and Mr John Walker of Maryhill, late in

the county of Lanark, and also a very fine one by Mr Paul of Cairndow. The premium for the best boar was given to Mr Wallace of Kellyor, one which was bred by the Marquis of Tweeddale. The premium for the two best pigs, not exceeding 40 weeks, was also carried by Mr Wallace for two, aged 22 weeks, of an improved cross, and fed by him on whey and potatoes, with a little oatmeal or barley.* Mr Mark Brand showed a pair of a breed not so much inclined to run to fat—and which were bred from a kind which came originally from Portugal, and crossed with the Durham breed. Those exhibited by Mr James Harvey were a mixture of the Irish and Scottish breeds.

In the head-quarters of the Clydesdale district, and in the very centre of a country long famed for horses, it was to be expected that there would have been a very powerful competition for the premiums offered by the Society for breeding mares. The judges, however, for this duty, had much less difficulty than would have been supposed.—Nineteen mares appeared for competition, and after a careful inspection, the judges, at once and unanimously, awarded the first premium, of ten sovereigns, to a mare six years old, got by Glancer, and belonging to John Cairns of Netherhouse, Old Monkland, Lanarkshire; and the second, of five sovereigns, to Mr James Frame of Broomfield and Overtown, near Hamilton, for a ten year old mare, bred by Mr John Prentice of Covington Mains. A premium of ten sovereigns was given to Mr James Frame for the best three year old filly, and a similar premium to Mr John Brown for the best three year old entire colt; but the judges declined giving second premiums in any of these classes, there being in their opinion no stock shown sufficient to merit it. Mr Brown's colt was got

by "The Farmer's Fancy," which gained the first prize at Crieff in 1823, and the first at Linlithgow in 1825—his grandsire, Glancer, the property of Mr James Thomson, near Glasgow.

In the department of the Show Yard, allotted for roots and seeds, there was a fine display. Beautiful assortments of the seeds of our native grasses were exhibited by those eminent seedsmen of London, Messrs Gibbs and Co. and Messrs Cormack Son, and Sinclair; and also by Messrs Lawson and Son, of Edinburgh. Some fine specimens of Mangel Wurzel were shown by Sir A. Campbell, Mr Finlay of Trees, and others.—Mr Landreth of Roxburgh, near Kelso, showed a very good specimen of red clover seed, saved by him this season; and Mr Kerr of Highfield, Ayrshire, some fine rye grass. Turnips, carrots, and garden roots, were produced by Mr Baird and various other individuals, some of which, from their uncommon size, attracted great notice.

Of the implements of husbandry our limits preclude any particular description. There were carts, ploughs, harrows, a winnowing machine, and scythes; several of these of new and improved constructions, the labels attached to which specified the names of Messrs Wilkie of Uddingstone, Kirkwood of Tranent, Taylor, Monteith, and several others. Mr Hunter of Thurston travelled from his seat in East Lothian in a gig, with his odometer attached.—This very neat and ingenious instrument measured the distance accurately, and attracted great notice in the Show Yard.

It is impossible to conclude the account of the morning's arrangements, without noticing the good order and propriety of demeanour observed by all classes without and within the Show Yard.

In the evening 280 gentlemen sat down to a splendid dinner in the Town Hall and adjoining apartment, the Marquis of Tweeddale, Vice-President of the Society, in the Chair, supported by the Lord Provost of Glasgow, the Duke of Hamilton, Lord Belhaven, Lord Fincastle, the Hon. Admiral Fleming, Lord John Hay, Sir David Hunter Blair, Sir James Colquhoun, Sir George Johnston, Mr Campbell of Blythswood, M.P., Mr Kirkmah Finlay, Mr Montfith, M.P., Mr Campbell of Succoth, M.P., Principal Macfarlan, Mr Innes of Stow, Treasurer of the Society, &c. &c. Mr M'Donald of Staffa, and Mr Ferguson of Woodhill, croupiers.

OCTOBER.

SETTLERS AT BUENOS AYRES.—It appears from statements published by the La Plata association, that the whole number of persons sent out were, 200 by the Thalia, 160 by the Harmony, and 200 by the Countess Morley—in all 560; of whom 130 have returned. Of the others, it appears that 50 families are settled on the lands; the rest, in consequence of the troubled state of the country, remain at Buenos Ayres, where some of them are subsisting at the expense of the Company, while others have entered the La Plata navy, and others have begun business in the town, and are doing well. It was admitted by the Chairman; however, that the result of the experiment, so far as it had a fair trial, was unfavourable. He said, "he would advise the Company never to send out another family, for the greater part of those sent out had proved so turbulent, ungrateful, and disorderly. It appeared to him, that there was something in that country which entirely spoiled Europeans;

the very best were most easily spoiled. The first year the most industrious made some effort; the second, they became more remiss and negligent; and the third, they became perfectly identified with the habits of the natives."

1st. — LONDON. — This morning, about nine o'clock, the neighbourhood of Shoreditch and Curtain Road was thrown into great consternation and alarm, by a violent report, which proceeded from a small house nearly at the corner of the Shoreditch, end of Leonard Street. Upon inquiry, it turned out that the noise alluded to proceeded from the explosion of a private still, and in a few minutes after the explosion, the lower part of the premises was discovered to be on fire. The inmates of the house lost no time in making their escape; two children were lowered down, and then the wife—the husband immediately jumped out afterwards. All of them reached the street without any injury, the neighbours assisting with the greatest promptitude and anxiety, and offering them an asylum in their own houses. They, however, took advantage of the confusion, and, knowing the consequences of their detection, made an immediate retreat, leaving all their goods and chattels to the mercy of the Excise Officers, who soon after arrived, and adopted the usual plan of seizure. The fire was soon extinguished by the aid of several engines, which arrived on the spot. Upon examining the premises, the remains of a still were found in a concealed part of the ground floor at the back of the house. It was difficult to ascertain what liquid had been distilled, but from the smell it had every appearance of gin.

A TALE OF MISERY.—An inquest was held on Monday at the Green Man, Little George Street, Westminster, on the body of an unfortu-

nate female not more than 19 years of age, commonly known as "Fair Ellen." From the evidence it appeared that she had not tasted food for three days, and had been turned out of her lodgings from not being able to pay for them; that she had wandered for four nights about the streets, sleeping at night on the steps of doors; that another "unfortunate" had kindly taken her to her miserable home, and supplied her with necessities, but from previous debility and want of sustenance she sunk under her sufferings, and expired on Saturday. During the examination of witnesses, the mother of the unfortunate girl arrived from Manchester to see her daughter, quite unconscious of her illness. The fatigue of travelling so far, joining with the sudden shock her feelings received on hearing the lamentable event, so far overpowered her, that she rushed into the room, threw herself down in a paroxysm of grief, and implored the coroner to let her see her dear Ellen. The scene became so distressing, that she was at length obliged to be carried out of the room. Several witnesses corroborated the statement given, and the Jury returned a verdict of "Died by the visitation of God." Various sums, from 10*l.* and 3*l.* to 1*s.* have been forwarded to the magistrates to be given to the young woman for the humanity she showed to the miserable Ellen in her extremity.

4th.—At the Middlesex adjourned Sessions, John Toft, a young man of respectable appearance, was indicted for assaulting Charlotte Gunnell. The prosecution was carried on by the parish of Iver, near Uxbridge, and excited considerable interest. Mr Alley, who stated the case, observed, that though the indictment merely charged a common assault, little doubt could exist that the intent was to murder. Charlotte Gunnell, a good-

looking woman, about twenty years of age, stated that the prisoner, who was hostler at the King's Arms, in Uxbridge, had kept her company for two years. On the 18th of August her mistress gave her leave to go out, and about a quarter before nine she called on the prisoner, who offered to see her home, which was two miles distant. They set off together about a quarter past nine. When they came to a place called Cowley Bridge, about a mile and a half from Uxbridge, he began taking improper liberties with her person. She resisted, and he seized her by the waist, and said, "You shall go over there," and threw her over the parapet into the river. She screamed, and two men came up and took her out of the water. She then became insensible, and did not recollect anything that happened to her till next morning, when she was taken to the reverend Mr Ward's house, and told him what the prisoner had done to her. She admitted that she afterwards told Mr Ward, in the presence of the prisoner, that she had slipped into the water. She said so, because she could not find in her heart to bring the prisoner into trouble. The two men who took the prosecutrix out of the water, corroborated her evidence, and stated, that after they had brought her to the cottage of one of them, they went to Uxbridge for the purpose of telling the prisoner her situation, but he prevented them, saying, "You need not tell me; I know all about it. Curse her; I wish she had been drowned. It is not her happiness, but mine, that I have to study." The Jury, after a quarter of an hour's consultation, returned a verdict, Guilty. The prisoner was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment and hard labour.

7th.—EDINBURGH.—NATIONAL MONUMENT.—This day a meeting of

the Directors of this Institution was held. It was thinly attended. The meeting sanctioned the contract for the erection of the twelve pillars and three stairs, at a cost of L.13,000!!! The ground is now inclosing with a wooden paling, which will cost at the least L.600!!

11th.—LONDON.—TWO-PENNY POST OFFICE, LOMBARD STREET.—A serious accident occurred at this office on Wednesday, owing to most reprehensible conduct in forwarding a quantity of fulminating powder in a letter. When Westbrook, a letter-stamper, applied the stamp, the composition exploded with dreadful violence. His hand was nearly blown off, the flesh being almost torn off the bones up to the knuckles. Two other persons who were near him were also slightly injured; the table on which the letters were stamped was broken through, and several other letters were destroyed, so great was the quantity of detonating powder contained in the letter, and the force of the explosion. It was on Thursday ascertained that the letter was sent from a chemical manufactory at Woodford, in Essex, to Mr Allen, a druggist, in Aldersgate Street, with the word "glass" indorsed on the envelope of the letter. With respect to poor Westbrook, who experienced the ill effects of this want of caution, he, up to a late hour last night, was going on well; the only thing now feared is an attack of the lock-jaw, a circumstance so frequent when the arteries have been severely injured. Mr Freeling has ordered every attention to be paid to the sufferer. Not a vestige of the bottle which contained the powder has been found, and a part of the stamp held by Westbrook was driven into his forehead, but it was extracted without much difficulty.

12th.—LIVERPOOL.—DISCOVERY

OF THIRTY-THREE DEAD BODIES.—On Tuesday, a considerable portion of the town was thrown into alarm, in consequence of a report having been spread, that a great number of human bodies had been discovered in casks, and *salted*, ready for shipment to Scotland. The circumstances, as far as we could collect them, were these:—On Monday afternoon, a carter, named John Leech, was taken from his stand by a man, who engaged him to cart three casks from Hope Street to George's Dock-quay, to be shipped on board the *Latona*, a vessel belonging to the Carron Company. He went to Hope Street with his employer, and took in his cart three casks, which were brought from a cellar under the school-room of the reverend J. M'Gowan, at the back of his house in Hope Street. He was then desired to make the best of his way to George's Dock-quay, and his employer gave him a shipping note, describing the casks to contain "bitter salts:" they were each directed "Mr G. H. Ironson, Edinburgh." The casks were placed betwixt decks that afternoon, and on Tuesday morning, when the crew of the *Latona* were about stowing them away, they experienced a very offensive smell, which caused a suspicion that their contents were not what the shipping note stated them to be: the captain (Walker) was informed of the circumstance, and on pulling out a wisp of straw, which stopped up a small hole, the stench became insupportable. The captain then started one of the bungs, and, on putting his hand in, he found it contained human bodies; he proceeded to inform the respectable agent of the company of the circumstance, who determined on giving immediate information to the police. Socket, a constable, was then sent to the quay, and having satisfied himself that the casks did,

in fact, contain human bodies, he ordered them to be detained; he then returned to the Police Office, and reported to Mr Millar what he had seen. Boughey was then desired to ascertain from whence the casks were taken, and having succeeded in finding Leech, the carter, he was informed they came from Hope Street. Leech accompanied Boughey and his assistants to Mr M'Gowan's cellar, which they found locked. Boughey went to Mr M'Gowan and inquired for the key, but was informed by him that he had it not, having let the cellar to a man who said his name was Henderson, a cooper, and a native of Greenock. Boughey then got a crow-bar, broke open the door, and commenced a search, when he discovered eleven empty casks, four casks containing *salted human bodies*, three sacks, each containing a body, a syringe, of the description which anatomists use for the purpose of injecting hot wax into the veins and arteries of bodies, besides a great number of smock frocks, jackets, and trowsers, no doubt used as disguises by the resurrectionists. The casks and sacks which contained the dead bodies were then ordered to be removed immediately to Chapel Street dead-house. Mr Davies, surgeon, of St Paul's Square, was immediately requested by the coroner to inspect the casks and sacks, a task of no ordinary kind, for, on their being opened, the effluvia which issued from them was most offensive; he, however, examined the bodies, and found, in the whole, *thirty-three*, male and female, including several children. It did not appear that there were any marks of violence on the bodies, and there was no doubt but they had all been disinterred from different burying grounds and cemeteries, and conveyed to this depot, in Hope Street, for the purpose of being exported in

wholesale numbers to Scotland. At the suggestion of Mr Davies, who stated that several of the bodies were far gone in a state of decomposition, the bodies were re-interred on Tuesday evening. From various materials found in the cellar, it may be conjectured that the bodies had, in the first process, been put into a strong brine, and afterwards, when thoroughly pickled, packed in the casks with the dry salt.

DEAD BODIES.—On Monday week, an inquest was held in Lancaster, on the bodies of a woman and a child, which were discovered in a state that excited the most disagreeable sensations. The circumstances were these.—A box was brought on Sunday week, by the New Times coach, from Manchester, which, upon the evidence of the guard and coachman, was delivered at the coach-office on the day previous (Saturday) by a man who requested it to be sent off the following morning by the first coach, and appeared much fatigued with his load. The box was 22 inches long, 15 wide, and 12 deep, covered with a wrapper and corded, and addressed to Archibald Young, Esq. No. 55, South Bridge Street, Edinburgh; the guard stated it to be very heavy, and it was with considerable difficulty he got it upon the roof of the coach; he also felt a very unpleasant smell proceeding from it, which afterwards proved very annoying to the passengers; so much so, that they insisted upon its being left when at Garstang, but did not succeed. However, on reaching Lancaster, the passengers refused going any farther if it was not taken off; and it was accordingly left at the King's Arms. The nauseous smell induced a belief that it must contain something in a high state of putrefaction, and on the following morning (Monday) it was opened, when its contents were found

to be the dead bodies of a female apparently from 45 to 50, and a male child of about 6 weeks old; the sight was disgusting to all who witnessed it, and in order to have them packed in this narrow compass, the sinews of the neck and limbs had been cut; the knees doubled up to the chin, and the legs pressed down; the child was placed betwixt them. Under these circumstances, the mayor, Samuel Gregson, Esq. who acts as coroner for the burgh, summoned a jury, who viewed the bodies, and adjourned until Wednesday, in order to hear the evidence of the guard and coachman. The bodies being in such a high state of putrefaction, it was thought necessary to inter them immediately, and they were decently deposited in the churchyard in one coffin. The verdict of the jury was—"Found dead in a box." We understand that boxes of a similar description have been conveyed before, but no suspicion was entertained as to the nature of the contents.

CAPTAIN PARRY'S NEW EXPEDITION.—A new expedition is projecting for Captain Parry. It has for its object to reach the Northern Pole, to make known to us what the inmost point of the ice-bound Arctic Circle is. Captain Franklin had offered himself to undertake a journey over the ice from Spitzbergen to the Pole, and this has been adopted by Captain Parry, who, in addition to his own ardent expectations of success, procured the sanction of the Royal Society to the practicability of the enterprise. The Hecla is to be prepared for Captain Parry early in the ensuing spring, and in that vessel he is to proceed to "Cloven Cliff," in Spitzbergen, in lat. 79 deg. 79 min. (or about 600 miles from the Pole), which he is expected to reach towards the end of May. From this point he will depart with two vessels,

which are capable of being used as boats or sledges, as water or ice is found to prevail. They are to be built of light, tough, and flexible materials, with coverings of leather and oil cloth; the latter convertible into sails. Two officers and ten men are to be appointed to each, with provisions for 92 days, which, if they only travelled on the average thirteen miles per day, and met with no insurmountable obstacles, would be sufficient for their reaching the long-desired Pole, and returning to the Hecla at Cloven Cliff. Dogs or reindeer (the former preferable for drawing the sledges, when necessary, but the latter better for food, in case of accident or detention) are to be taken on the expedition. It is known that the summer temperature is far from being severe; there is perpetual light, with the sun continually above the horizon, and Captain Parry knows, from experience, that the men on such occasions are always very healthy. During his absence, the boats of the ships are to be engaged in exploring the eastern side of Spitzbergen; and the officers and men of science in making philosophical experiments, with the pendulum, on magnetism and meteorology, in natural history, &c. Thereward of success, besides the personal glory and general advantage attending the exploit, will be 5000*l.*; and we earnestly hope that by this day twelve months, Captain Parry and his gallant companions may be safe in London to claim and receive it.

KILSYTH.—The town of Kilsyth, county of Stirling, has lately been constituted a Burgh, of Barony by a Charter from the Crown, obtained by Sir Archibald Edmonstone, Bart. of Duntreath, superior of the place. Pursuant to advertisement, the Burghesses assembled in the church on Friday week, for the purpose of ma-

king their *first* election of a Bailie and four Councillors, when Sir Archibald presented them with the Charter, and addressed the meeting at considerable length, after it had been duly constituted with prayer by the Rev. Mr Burns, minister of the parish. When the usual formalities had been gone through, the following gentlemen were duly elected, viz :—Mr Matthew Stevenson, postmaster, Bailie; and Messrs John Rennie, James Hay, William Paterson, and John Rankine, Councillors, for the ensuing year.

LOSS OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER MAGPIE.—The Magpie, Lieutenant Edward Smith, was caught by a sudden and very violent squall off the north side of Cuba, the 27th August, and taken aback, and was thrown over on the larboard side, so as to lay her hatches, which were open, in the water; she filled, and immediately went down, leaving on the surface but a small boat, full of water, to which nine persons clung, amongst whom was the Lieutenant, Mr C. M. M'Lean, mate, and William Mel-drum, gunner's mate; the two latter, the only survivors, were picked up off Matawgas by an American brig, after being in the water 36 hours. They were surrounded by sharks, who came so close as to touch them, which terrified them so much, that four let go their hold in the morning of the next day and perished. In the afternoon, Lieutenant Smith resigned himself to his fate, after being bit twice.

A MODERN ROBINSON CRUSOE.—The Thetis transport, Lieut. Hopkins, which arrived a few days since from the Pacific Ocean, had occasion to touch at the Island of Mocho for water, the only inhabitant on which was an English seaman, of the name of Joseph Richardson, a native of Aldington, near Ashford, in Kent,

who, like another Robinson Crusoe, or Alexander Selkirk, had made choice of such a solitary houseless spot upwards of three years since for a residence, when he was landed at his own urgent desire from a Patriot ship of war, commanded by Captain Robertson. The island is about 60 miles in circumference, and about sixty miles from the coast of Chili, in lat. 39. S. It is very seldom visited by ships, as it does not afford necessary supplies of wood, but it does of water in abundance. It is remarkably fertile, and abounds with hogs and horses. Richardson has cultivated two gardens, on the vegetable produce of which, with pork, young horse flesh, and wild pigeons, he lives. He hunts the former animals with dogs, a fine breed of which he has broken in; the pigeons are so numerous that he has little difficulty in obtaining them, and a few other kinds of birds, though the only fire-arms he possesses is an old musket with a broken lock, which he discharges by means of a match; but by patient watching under the trees, he contrives with such defective means to vary his diet as often as he wishes. About nine months since, the Indians, hearing of his desolate situation, though not at all disposed to join in community, landed two of their native girls on the island. Richardson instantly made choice of one of them as his consort, and proclaimed her Queen of the island, and the other he calls his cook. The distinction between these two individuals was quite perceptible on the present visit.—Richardson having no means of amusement besides the necessary employment of obtaining subsistence, at his own request Lieutenant Hopkins supplied him with a Bible and Prayer Book. Lieutenant H. offered to take him off the island, but he refused to leave it, declaring his determination of passing his life

in his own government. He had commenced erecting a fort to protect himself from the Indians. There was no present appearance of an increase of his subjects.—*Hampshire Telegraph*.

The village of Ravenstone, Bucks, was last Wednesday thrown into the utmost alarm and consternation by the report that a labouring man of the name of Bates had attempted to destroy himself and his family, consisting of a wife and two daughters. The unfortunate man, it appears, was a shoemaker, but, owing to the great depression of the times, had not been able to get work during the last few weeks; his daughters, who are grown up, were in the habit of making lace, but from the same cause could not dispose of their work, and in consequence the whole family was reduced to the last stage of want and wretchedness. On Wednesday last, the unhappy father, unable any longer to witness the distress of his wife and daughters, proceeded to a neighbouring market town, and succeeded in obtaining a considerable quantity of white arsenic, which, on his return home, he mixed in a pudding, with the determination of putting an end to the lives of the whole family. The consequences were truly horrible—the father and daughters ate greedily of the unwonted fare, which the mother, supposing it to be the effects of hunger, restrained herself from doing. In about an hour afterwards, the father and his two daughters were corpses, and the mother now lingers in a most dangerous state, and but little hopes are entertained of her ultimate recovery.

A meeting of the Livery of London, pursuant to a requisition presented by Mr Favell to the Lord Mayor, on Michaelmas-day, was held at Guildhall. A committee, consisting of Aldermen Waithman and Wood,

and Mr Orator Hunt, for drawing up the resolutions to be submitted to the meeting, met in the Reading Room attached to the Hall, when the resolutions underwent a final revision. At half past one o'clock, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and other city officers, entered the Hall, and the meeting having been opened in the usual way, the Lord Mayor came forward, and after stating the object for which the meeting had assembled, expressed his hope that they would hear individuals on both sides of the question with that attention which the importance of the question demanded.—Mr Favell then addressed the meeting at considerable length, and entered into a view of the present state of the country. He contended, that the distressed state not only of our manufacturing, but also of our shipping and agricultural interest, arose from the introduction of our Corn Laws. He said that much information had been come at from the able remarks that had appeared in the public press, supported by a gentleman, Mr Whitmore, who had written a pamphlet on the subject, to which he (Mr Favell) would refer the Livery for their perusal; and when it was considered that sentiments, such as appeared in that work, coming from a person, whose interests were in a measure dependent on the high price of corn, his honourable testimony on this occasion would have its due weight. Mr Favell here read some extracts, and concluded by observing, that as Parliament were likely to meet soon, and as they had their Members (some new) who were preparing to put on the harness, he had no doubt but they would make a stand against a continuance of the present system, which was likely to plunge the country into greater misery and final ruin. The learned gentleman concluded

by moving the first resolution.—Mr Bowring seconded the resolution; and Mr Hunt spoke, at great length, on the right of every one to petition against a grievance which was felt by the grower and the consumer—the bread-eater as well as the corn-grower. It is unnecessary to add, that the resolutions were carried.

It is currently reported in the high military circles, that an arrangement is about to take place, very acceptable to the army, showing the Commander-in-Chief's gracious disposition to its interests, whilst he recommends a reward for past services to the needy but meritorious officers who cannot get on by purchase.—The outlines of the plan appear to be, that in time of peace, for the sake of regimental duty, the brevet is not to go any farther down than the Lieutenant-Colonels; but that in the other ranks there is to be a promotion, (as recently on the half pay,) viz. subalterns having served 15 years or upwards, and nine as Lieutenants, to be Captains; Captains 21 years and upwards, and seven as Captains, to be Majors; and Majors serving 25 years or upwards, five as Majors, to be Lieutenant-Colonels on the half pay, from which they are to be replaced in the service by those young and active officers lately promoted, amongst whom the field officers are generally those who have been captains or subalterns in the late war.

DREADFUL MURDERS.—On Friday morning, the whole of the neighbourhood of Leatherhead, Surrey, was thrown into a state of considerable excitation and horror, in consequence of the barbarous murder of two aged individuals, who resided on the borders of Fetcham Common, within two miles of Leatherhead, and at a short distance off the high road to Guildford. The names of the unhappy persons are, John Akelhurst, &

helpless old man, aged 96, and his housekeeper, Elizabeth Haines, aged 74. They inhabited a cottage in the midst of a small orchard, in a very solitary and lonely situation. The old man had, it was generally believed, amassed, by his industry and economy, and the produce of his orchard, a sum of money. He had long been bed-ridden, and, as well as the aged housekeeper, was, by decay of nature, so much reduced that he could not have offered any resistance to the murderous attack. The murders were committed, it would appear, about midnight, by some one who had entered the house by a washhouse window, the glass of which was broken. The female was found dead near the old man's bed, on the floor, naked, and weltering in her blood, her head being dreadfully beaten with a hammer, or similar instrument; and the old man was found dead in bed, his head similarly wounded, and the temporal artery divided. Considerable mystery is attached to this dreadful affair, no property being carried off. A man of notorious character was taken up on suspicion, but no evidence fixing the guilt upon him was elicited. He is, however, detained. The old man had willed his house, &c. to his housekeeper, for one year, together with some of the furniture; the former to be then delivered up to his daughter, an old woman of 60, who lives with her husband a few miles off. The daughter did not exhibit any marks of sorrow at the view of the bodies, and eagerly demanded the will, declaring the property to be hers. A reward of one hundred guineas is offered for the apprehension of the murderer, or murderers, or such information as may lead to their arrest.—Another man, named Corney, who had been in that neighbourhood at the time of the murder, and whose shirt was

stained apparently with blood, has since been apprehended, but nothing was proved against him.

23d.—EDINBURGH.—PROJECTED CITY IMPROVEMENTS.—A meeting of the Committee of Inhabitants, named last year, and of the Magistrates, was held in the Council Chamber to take into consideration the projected improvements on the city. The Lord Provost having been called to the chair, His lordship stated to the meeting, that last year it had been determined to delay for a season the improvements then projected; and this resolution, he believed, had given general satisfaction, as it had afforded the inhabitants more time to consider and to mature the subject. It was now his lordship's intention to propose a much more limited scale of alterations and improvements than had been formerly suggested, and by which the characteristic features of the ancient ridge on which the Old Town is built would not be disturbed. This limited scale would be better suited to the state of the present times, as the sum requisite for the purpose would be much reduced, while at the same time it would not preclude, but rather pave the way for, future or more extended improvements. 1st. The first object to which his lordship would direct the attention of the meeting, was the lowering and levelling of the High Street. This seemed to be a measure quite imperative. 2d. He would next propose the opening up of the street to the Castle Hill, by the removal of the decayed wooden tenements upon the north side; straightening that side of the street, by which a view of the fortress will be given from the High Street, and replacing these tenements by houses in the old Flemish style of architecture, or whatever style appears most consonant with the character of the most ancient part

of the city. It was not intended to propose any alteration on the south side of the street, as the houses were in general good, and formed no obstruction to the view of the Castle. The lowering of the street at the east end of the esplanade was not proposed to be greater than what was taken off at the head of the West Bow. 3. The next point to which he would bend their attention was the opening of a street from the head of the West Bow, and carrying it along the south bank of the Castle Hill, to communicate with that part of the town to the west of the Castle, which was increasing so rapidly. The great advantages to result from opening a level communication between that populous district and the Old Town were so obvious, as to require no illustration to those who are at all acquainted with the localities of the city; and as the sanction of the Board of Ordnance had been obtained for that measure, of which the expense was not very great, his lordship hoped it would meet with the approbation of the public. That the above formed the substance of what he would at present propose to be done, as it would serve to prepare the way for the south approach, and would in truth form a key-stone for any future access to the southern districts, which would be much more easily accomplished by this primary improvement having taken place.

Mr Kincaid Mackenzie then rose and said, that no dependence was to be placed on estimates; for he had lately been called on to pay L.17,000 for a work which was estimated at L.8000, and therefore he thought that provision should be made in the bill for L.40,000 instead of L.25,009.

Mr Robison said, that it depended altogether on the character of the architects, whether their estimates might be depended on. For his part,

he had lately paid L.2875 for a work which had been estimated at L.2850. L.40,000 would be an unreasonable demand.

Dr Inglis asked if nothing was meant to be done just now about the southern approach.

The Lord Provost said, that the present measure might fairly be deemed preparatory to a southern communication. But the expense of the west approach, which was only between L.9000 and L.10,000, was so much below that of the south, which was between L.30,000 and L.40,000, that he confessed he feared just now to adventure upon the latter.

After this, a report, prepared under the superintendence and sanction of the Lord Provost, was partly read to the meeting, the estimates contained in which stated the west road at L.9860, and the south at L.33,146, 5s.

Mr William Inglis moved, and his motion was seconded by Dr Inglis, that the report be printed and circulated for the information of the public.

Dr Hay, Dr M'Lagan, and Mr Sheriff Duff, severally objected to the prosecution of the measure at this period of general depression, and chiefly because a new Debtors' Jail was a measure of paramount necessity. On which the Lord Provost observed, that the state of the times was all in their favour; and as to the jail, he had hopes he would be able to manage it without an assessment.

The Lord Register asked what the amount of the proposed assessment might be? The Lord Provost.—About 1l. on 100l. rental, divided between landlord and tenant for five years. [This on a 25l. rent (above the average) is 3s. on the landlord and 2s. on the tenant for five years.]

The Lord Register expressed his satisfaction at the statement, and said his fellow citizens might command his services in support of the bill. He

hoped the southern districts would not renew their opposition.

Mr Alexander Muckle, as one of a committee of the inhabitants of the seventeenth ward, stated, that there was a public meeting of the inhabitants called by advertisement, and the principle of the resolutions was, that the commission should consist of at least two-thirds, chosen openly, of those paying assessment.

The Lord Provost.—It is agreed that a large proportion of the Commissioners should be named by the Wards of Police.

Mr Muckle.—A majority of them must be so; and if this be the case, I venture to say, that you will get as much money as you need.

Mr Leonard Horner asked whether the districts immediately connected with the openings were to pay more than the rest of the town?

The Lord Provost.—As they reap the immediate benefit, it is proposed to lay on them an extra part of the assessment.

Mr Horner.—This is quite just.

Bailie Luke said, that he was highly favourable to the improvements; but he thought a different line for the west road should be taken, by Brodie's Close, and a bridge over the Cowgate head, and forward by Herriot's Hospital, taking in a small portion of the Hospital play-ground.

The Lord Provost.—The Committee will take the best line they can get, and have considered this matter well. The line mentioned by Bailie Luke was under their view, but he believed it would be found not at all an advisable one.

Mr Inglis's motion, as seconded by Dr Inglis, was then put and unanimously agreed to; and it was resolved to hold an adjourned meeting on Monday the 6th November, to determine on the farther proceedings, with an understanding, that if neces-

sary, in point of form, Parliamentary notices should be given for the bill in the meantime; the public always being made aware, that these notices are merely to serve the point of form, and that the farther progress of the measure must depend on the public opinion.

FRANCE.—DEATH OF TALMA.—This celebrated actor died at Paris on the morning of the 19th. The following letter appears in the *Etoile* of Friday:

“SIR,—Talma died this morning, at thirty-five minutes past eleven o'clock. He had repeatedly, and in presence of many of his friends, expressed a wish to be carried directly from his own house to the place of his last rest. I beg, sir, that you will have the goodness, agreeably to the last wish of my uncle, to give all possible publicity to this declaration.

(Signed)

“AMEDEE TALMA, M.D.

“Paris, Oct. 6.”

The *Etoile* of Saturday adds the following particulars:—The body of Talma was opened this day at noon, in presence of the physicians and surgeons who attended on him during his fatal illness. It was discovered from inspection, that what had been advanced several months ago was perfectly correct—namely, that the cause of this celebrated actor's death was a complete obliteration, for nearly two inches in length, of the large intestine, at about six inches from its termination. In the other parts of the bowels there was a secondary inflammation observable. It is obvious that the obliteration above noticed must have rendered vain all the cares of the first medical men of the capital.

The Archbishop of Paris made several attempts to see him during his long illness, to reconcile him to the Catholic Church, and thus to have a

pretext for allowing to his remains those funeral rites, from which, as a player, he was excluded, but whose denial to so popular a character might become the subject of public scandal, or even lead to the breach of the public peace. Talma, however, refused him an interview.

Talma is entitled to the highest praise of the stage. He has been for thirty years at the head of acting in France. Among the cloud of aspirants, no man has approached him; he has had no equal, even no rival, almost no remote competitor. Talma, almost at his entrance into theatrical life, made his strength felt, obtained his rank, and has from that hour kept it without fear of change. Talma was born in Paris, about the year 1760. When about eight years old, his father, who lived in London, a goldsmith, sent for him, and the future Roscius of France, was, after a few years spent at a boarding-school in the classic neighbourhood of Lambeth, articled to a surgeon. His theatrical propensities, however, had made themselves so well known among the foreigners in London, that Sir John Gallina—the Albert of his day, then superintending an amateur French company, at the Hanover Square Rooms, applied to Talma, and he played in a whole succession of comedies. But the English stage was then in its glory—Siddons and Kemble were in their prime. The performance of these two pre-eminent leaders decided Talma's vocation. Unquestionably they formed his taste. He returned to Paris, and took a fresh and full review of all that was able or attractive in the national companies. He was for a long time, owing to absurd regulations, condemned to play parts unworthy of him, and it was to Chenier he was indebted for being brought into a more favourable light. We shall not mention the

long list of characters in which he excelled; the first he became notorious in was *Charles the Ninth*; the last, *Charles the Sixth*.

FUNERAL OF TALMA.—According to his last desire, the mortal remains of Talma were on Friday carried direct from his house to the cemetery of Pere la Chaise. At ten o'clock precisely, the funeral procession set out. It consisted of a magnificent hearse drawn by four horses, fifteen mourning coaches, Talma's carriage, with those of Mlle. Marrs and Mlle. Duchesnois, and two or three empty ones, having their curtains lowered. In the first mourning coach, we noticed M. Arhault, sen. and M. de Jouy, habited in the costume of the Institute. All the others were empty, the fineness of the weather having allowed Talma's friends, who were to have gone in them, to follow the procession on foot, which they preferred. The number of persons composing it may be estimated at three or four thousand, almost all young persons, at the head of whom walked several distinguished by decorations. M. Mechin, in his costume as a deputy, and the performers of the *Theatres Royaux*, all barcheaded, marching in the greatest order and silence. —Numbers, by the expression of their faces, showed the profound grief with which they were penetrated. The procession arrived at Pere la Chaise at about half past eleven o'clock. Midway up the steep leading to it, the hearse stopped; twelve young men then carried the coffin to the borders of the grave destined to receive it. From an early hour in the morning, a considerable crowd, amounting, perhaps, to 20,000 persons, had filled the cemetery, and when the coffin was brought into it, they assembled round the tomb. It was not without difficulty that the persons carrying the coffin, with the

friends, and even the orators themselves, were scarcely able to get within the circle. With the exception of this disorder, which only arose out of a pardonable anxiety, everything passed with the greatest propriety and religious respect. Funeral orations were delivered over the grave, by Lafon and De Jouy.

A new coinage of gold, silver, and copper, has just been completed at the Mint. Four or five of the principal bankers had each one set as a specimen, and no more. A set consists of one 5*l.* piece, with a 2*l.* piece, a 1*l.* piece, and a 10*s.* piece (gold); a 5*s.* piece, a half-crown piece, a 1*s.*, and a sixpence, (silver); a penny, a halfpenny, and a farthing, in copper. The 5*l.* piece bears on one side the arms of Great Britain engraved on drapery, with the motto *Decus et Tutamen*, and the date of the year; on the other side the head of his Majesty, similar to the one on the new sovereign. This piece is supposed to be taken from the forty Liri piece of Parma. The 2*l.* piece is the same as the above. The 1*l.* piece is also the same, but not engraved on drapery. The 5*s.* piece, the half-crown piece, the 1*s.*, and the 6*d.*, bear the arms of Great Britain the same as those already issued. The penny, halfpenny, and farthing, are dated 1826.

Captain Parry, the celebrated navigator, was married, on Monday last, at Alderney, to the accomplished daughter of Sir John T. Stanley.

NOVEMBER.

7th.—HULL.—The Graham steam-vessel left Grimsby about eight o'clock this morning, on her passage to this port. At that time, the United Kingdom, Captain Oman, the largest and most magnificent steam-

vessel in Europe, which plies between Leith and London, and which left the latter city on her voyage to Leith, on Saturday, was riding in the roads, having been prevented from making her passage northwards, by the violence of the wind from that quarter, and the roughness of the sea. The Graham proceeded directly towards her, in order to take passengers, &c. for this district, and also those who, from the previous detention of the vessel by contrary winds, wished to proceed overland. She arrived alongside about half past eight, and in ten minutes from that time, while the transference of passengers and luggage was actively taking place, the boiler of the Graham suddenly burst with a tremendous explosion. The scene of alarm and confusion which followed was of the most appalling description. The deck of the Graham, at that moment, was literally swarming with passengers. She left Grimsby with about forty, and had received nearly the same number from the United Kingdom. Many of these, by the violence of the shock, were raised from their feet—some of them to a great height—and precipitated into the Humber, the tide at that time running in strongly. Most providentially, Captain Oman had, with a very wise precaution, two boats ready manned; and, under his able direction, additional aid was instantly afforded by his passengers and crew, through whose active and persevering exertions, a very large proportion of the unfortunate persons thrown overboard were rescued from their perilous situation. The consequences of the accident, however, were soon found to be most fatal and extensive. One man, a scaman, named Mellins, was killed by a large fragment of the metal, on board the United Kingdom. Another, a Mr J. Cundill, proved to be lifeless when taken out of the wa-

ter. Four more were known to be missing—no doubt drowned; and it appeared probable that this was not the whole extent of the loss. One man had his skull fractured; about twenty others were severely scalded, and five or six more or less slightly wounded. Fortunately, among the passengers on board the United Kingdom, were four medical gentlemen, who afforded the most prompt and efficient assistance, as the persons recovered from the water were brought into that vessel; and every species of help, which his simple means could furnish, or humanity suggest, was most liberally and readily supplied by Captain Oman, and those under his command, to the unfortunate sufferers, most of whom had received the necessary aid, and were put to bed, or furnished with dry clothing, in a surprisingly short period after the accident.

The following is a list of the sufferers, so far as can be at present ascertained:—

John Cundill, a Baptist minister, of South-Street, in this town, leaving a wife and three children. He formerly lived at Saffron Walden, and lately published a small pamphlet entitled "Reasons for Renouncing Unitarianism."

William Mellins, seaman, of Scarborough. This man was recently employed on board the United Kingdom, but had been paid off while she was in the Humber, and was coming up to Hull in the Graham. He had stepped on board the United Kingdom just before the accident happened.

The four following are known to have been lost overboard. We fear others have perished in the same manner:—

Richard Jenney, about 50, who was for many years a driver of a stage-coach from Louth to Grimsby. He had lately accompanied the packet,

backwards and forwards, with a fruit basket, &c. John Blowe, an elderly man, well known here as owner of a luggage boat, which passed regularly from this port to Grimsby. He has left eleven children. John Potter, of Grimsby, coal-porter, who has also left a very large family. John Wray, a cabinet-maker, of Carr Lane, in this town. He had been at Grimsby to obtain a situation as foreman, and has left a pregnant wife and three children.

Addresses of thanks have been presented to Captain Oman from the passengers of both vessels.

Amongst the multitude of individuals who filled the Tuileries on Saturday (Charles the Tenth's Birthday), Sir Walter Scott and his daughter were observed with the greatest interest. The King, by a mark of distinction the more flattering, because it was exclusive, allowed the illustrious Scotchman to be placed on his passage in the glass gallery, where only ladies are usually admitted. His Majesty complimented, in a few words full of elegance, the labours of the historian of the misfortunes of the Stuarts, the writer who dedicated some affecting lines to the exile of the House of Bourbon. The King afterwards, with as much delicacy as kindness, conversed in English with the handsome and timid Miss Anna Scott.

RIOT AT HILLTOWN, COUNTY DOWN.—Extract of a letter from Newry, 7th November 1826:—"I just seize this opportunity of telling you that a serious affair has taken place at the little village of Hilltown, within eight miles of this; the entire occasioned by an Orange procession who were marching (decked in the trappings of the confederacy, to celebrate the anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot) past the Catholic Chapel of Hilltown, just as the congregation were coming out after mass, on

last Sunday. Strife arose between the parties, while passing each other, close to the Chapel, on the road. The Orangemen, being well armed, fired on the crowd. Three Catholics were killed, and great numbers on both sides dangerously wounded in the desperate encounter that ensued. These are the general facts, an authentic detail of the more minute parts of this tragedy not being as yet *comeatable*, if I may use the word; but when it is, you shall have it from me. The whole district of the country is in a state of unparalleled excitement and alarm, and I dread that grievous will be the consequences springing from such a transaction."

LEIPSIK FAIR.—Three hundred and ninety-one booksellers met at the last Easter Fair at Leipsic; and two thousand three hundred and seventy-four new works, written in German or in the ancient languages, sufficiently proved the prodigious activity with which the sciences are cultivated. To these must be added atlases, romances, dramatic pieces, musical compositions, &c. making the whole amount to two thousand seven hundred and forty-nine.

THE GREEK FRIGATES.—A pamphlet has been published at New York, on the subject of the frigates intended for the Greeks, by the Greek deputy or agent, Contostavlos. The statement is to this effect:—That an application was made to two houses, that of Le Roy, Bayard, and Co. and that of G. G. and S. Howland, to build the frigates; that the houses in question accepted the job with gratitude; that they gave in an estimate for one frigate, amounting to 247,500 dollars; and engaged to finish the two in the course of six months. In the space, however, of five months, the contractors had already drawn for and received more by 200,000 dollars than the estimated cost of the two

frigates, and neither of them was yet launched. The building of the frigates was, in truth, not announced as near its conclusion, till eleven months from its commencement, instead of six; and then the expense of each, instead of 240,000 dollars, was 550,000 dollars; and the Greek deputies were informed that they should not sail till the money was paid. A dispute consequently ensued between M. Contostavlos and the two houses of Bayards and Howlands; law was had recourse to; arbitrators were appointed; their award was unsatisfactory; and the pamphlet thus concludes:—"But, what will fill every bosom with horror, remains still to be told. I think I mentioned that the deputies, in commissioning these two frigates, wrote to both houses not to undertake the building of them in case the laws of the United States should be opposed to their construction and departure. Messrs Bayards and Howlands answered that there was no law to prevent it, and without any farther trouble undertook their construction. It was now, during the arbitration, contended by my counsel, and must be acknowledged on all hands, that this transaction was illegal, and that the frigates were subject to seizure and confiscation at every moment, and at the instigation of any man who should choose to be an informer. Was it then generous, was it just, was it Christian-like, in these arbitrators, after having awarded to these houses a commission amounting altogether to 86,381 dollars 60 cents, for the building of these two frigates, to award and order their balances to be paid, and throw upon a foreigner, not only the whole responsibility of the law, but also the impossibility of sending out this last resource to his country? Generous reader, whoever you are, calm your anxiety. The frigate,

the only frigate, which cost L.155,000 sterling to the Greek nation, is now on her way to Greece. For the same country that gave birth to these arbitrators, gave also existence to Henry D. and Robert Sedgwick; without whose intervention and assistance, the generous way in which, through their disinterested solicitations, a bond to an amount of 600,000 dollars has been signed by several individuals, and their unparalleled exertions, the frigate, with this award, could never leave these American shores! These two gentlemen, with the upright and noble-minded John Duer and B. Robinson, constituted my counsel. The noble, the independent, the fatherly way (for friendly does not express half the feelings of my heart) in which they have defended this sacred cause, has acquired for them my gratitude and the gratitude of my country."

CONVOCATION OF THE CLERGY.—A General Assembly of the Clergy in Convocation took place on Wednesday, as is usual on the opening of a new Parliament, to choose Delegates, and on other formal business. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, Sir John Nicholl (Dean of the Arches), Sir C. Robinson (King's Advocate), with other Judges, Doctors, and Proctors, belonging to the Ecclesiastical Courts, all in full costume, walked in procession from the Chapter-house, in St Paul's Churchyard to the Cathedral. They were received at the great western entrance by the Dean (the Bishop of Llandaff,) Dr Hughes, one of the Residentiaries, and the other Members of the Choir, who preceded them to their stalls. The service, commencing with the Litanies, was read in Latin by the Dean, after which the *Gloria in excelsis* was chanted, previous to the sermon, which was preached also in Latin, by the very

Rev. Dr Mock, Dean of Peterborough. Of this discourse, which was composed with great elegance and purity of style, the Catholic claims formed the prominent feature. In allusion to the Parliamentary inquiry, which took place in both Houses, the preacher insisted strongly on the proofs derived from the evidence of the claimants themselves, that the tenets of the Roman Catholic Church were not, as has been alleged, meliorated and softened down by time, but that their nature was unchanged and unchangeable. With respect to the Irish Catholics more especially, he maintained, that in pressing their remonstrances they were urged on by their priests, who, masking their real designs under the pretence of consulting the common good, were principally actuated by the desire of aggrandizing the Church of Rome. In conclusion, he called upon his reverend brethren not to relax their vigilance, but to continue to deprecate any measures which might operate to produce a change in the religion which their predecessors had suffered so much to establish. On the conclusion of the sermon, his Grace the Primate pronounced the benediction, and the procession returned in the same order as it had arrived, and shortly afterwards adjourned.

REGIMENTAL COURT OF INQUIRY. ROYAL GUARDS,—BLUE.

It is well known that a Court of Inquiry has been for some time past sitting in this distinguished Regiment, in order to decide on the truth or falsehood of an imputation made upon Lord William Lennox, a captain in the corps, of having been the author of a series of offensive personalities against the Earl of Glengall, which have appeared in the *Age Sunday*

paper. A second subject of the investigation appears to have been, whether the noble officer in question did at any time, while on duty with his regiment, submit his conduct to be canvassed by any person or set of persons whatever,—a circumstance which, we presume, would involve a point of military *etiquette*. The Court, which is understood to have been originally convened at the instance, of Lord William himself, (who, as will be seen, manifested throughout the business the strongest desire that the whole of his conduct connected with the transaction should be fully investigated,) sat more than once. The noble earl already alluded to, acceded to a request made him to attend and give his testimony before it, as did also several other gentlemen connected more or less with the proceedings; and after the fullest and most patient investigation, the Court returned their written opinion to their colonel, the Duke of Wellington, who has since expressed his full concurrence in, and satisfaction at, the conclusion to which it was come—a conclusion, we are glad to find, as completely exculpatory of the honour of the noble lord, whose conduct was the subject of investigation, as the manner in which the whole inquiry has been conducted, and its result, must have been gratifying to his feelings. Military etiquette will of course prevent official promulgation of the proceedings of a Court of Inquiry of this description; but the substance of them we are enabled to lay before the public, and the correctness of the account may be depended on. Its report is to the following effect; that “the Court, having duly considered the statement of Lord William Lennox, and the evidence given by the Earl of Glengall and other gentlemen, present at meetings held in

London, on the subject, are of opinion that there is no ground whatever for the report which has been in circulation, and that it appears to the Court that Lord William Lennox has throughout acted with judgment and candour; that he has shown every inclination to have his conduct thoroughly examined; and that he has afforded every facility to the investigation. On weighing farther all the evidence and circumstances of the case, the Court are finally of opinion, that Lord William’s statement has not been contradicted, and that no reason whatever exists for supposing that his lordship either ever has written for, or been at all connected with, the *Age* newspaper.

“With respect to the question of Lord William Lennox having submitted his conduct to be scrutinized by certain gentlemen, at the time he was engaged in doing military duty with his regiment in London, the Court are of opinion that certain meetings, which did take place, were not considered by Lord William Lennox to be held for the purpose of any investigation, but in order to promote an explanation of a misunderstanding which existed between the Earl of Glengall and himself; but that Lord William would willingly at all times have submitted to, and was earnestly desirous to promote, any inquiry, by any means, which his regiment might think proper to institute, in order to rescue his character from a charge prejudicial to his honour as an officer and a gentleman.”

The report of the Court of Inquiry, of which we have thus given the tenour, is understood to have been presented early in the week to the Duke of Wellington, who has since signified his formal approbation of its contents; and the result has been for some days privately, but pretty ge-

nerally, circulated at the west end of the town, where it has given universal satisfaction.*

16th.—GLASGOW.—UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.—Thomas Campbell, Esq. was elected Lord Rector of the College of Glasgow, for the ensuing year. Mr Canning and Sir Thomas Brisbane were also proposed. The votes were—for Mr Campbell, 283—for Sir T. Brisbane, 196—for Mr Canning, 79.

17th.—EDINBURGH.—ANTI-PATRONAGE SOCIETY.—The second annual meeting of the Society for improving the System of Church Patronage in Scotland, was held in the Great Room, Waterloo Hotel. A large assemblage of ladies and gentlemen were present. George Sinclair, Esq. younger of Ulbster in the chair.

The Secretary read to the meeting a report by the Directors.

The report commenced by stating, that the Directors, after the lapse of another year, came before the public with new confidence in the excellence of the Institution—the object of which was to restore to the people an interest in the choice of their ministers. The report, at some length, brings forward the practice of antiquity, the authority of the Scriptures, and of the early reformers, in favour of the system; and answers the objections made by the opponents of the Society. It then urges, on country parishes, the forming themselves into parochial auxiliary societies; and states, that were little societies generally established over the country, producing only L.1 each annually, a sum of L.1000 per annum would by this means alone be produced, which, added to what might be done in large towns, would afford sufficient funds for every purpose of the Society. The Directors then state, that besides the formation of various auxiliary societies, they had been encour-

raged by contributions from other religious associations. During the present year, eight patronages had been offered for sale, of which four had been sold—one of these (Dairsie) had fallen into the hands of an office-bearer of the Society, and the other (Colinton) had been bought by the Society. For the payment of this last, eleven of the Directors had pledged their personal security, not doubting that the liberality of the public would soon relieve them from that responsibility; the patronage, in the meantime, being held by these gentlemen in trust for the Society. The report concludes by stating, that, on the whole, the Directors see much to cheer and encourage their friends, and that they entertain no fear of the issue of their exertions.

After the meeting had been addressed at some length by the Chairman, who contended that from the examples of the Christian Church in the time of the Apostles, the right of electing their pastors was clearly in the people,

The following motion was made by the Reverend David Simpson of Aberdeen, who spoke at great length on the subject, seconded by William H. Craufurd, Esq. of Craufurdland, and unanimously agreed to:—

“That this Meeting do cordially approve of the statements which have now been made to them on the part of the Directors, and appoint the same to be printed and circulated.”

It was then moved, after some observations, by the Reverend Dr Kidd of Aberdeen, seconded by the Reverend Walter Tait, and unanimously agreed to, that the present office-bearers of the Society shall be continued for the ensuing year.

It was then moved by George Lyon, Esq. of Glenogil, seconded by the Reverend Dr Andrew Thomson, and unanimously agreed to:—

"That this Meeting offer their hearty thanks to the Auxiliary Societies which have united, and the religious institutions which have contributed towards the promotion of the cause in which this Society is engaged; and that, in an especial manner, the Meeting observe with pleasure a commencement given to the formation of Parochial Auxiliaries, from the diffusion of which over Scotland they anticipate great benefit, seeing that as it will always be easy on the one hand for a small number in each parish to produce a small sum to the general fund, so, on the other, the general amount sent from all the parishes will be great; while, at the same time, by this means, a powerful interest will be excited, and much information diffused, regarding the good object all have in view."

Dr A. Thomson, in his speech, defended the legality of the object of the Society, and expatiated greatly upon the evils of patronage, as it exists.

The thanks of the meeting, on the motion of J. F. Gordon, Esq. were unanimously voted to the Chairman, for his conduct in the chair.

FRANCE.—The proceedings against Ouvrard have terminated in the acquittal of himself and all those who were accused with him, except Mauleon and Berge, who are sentenced to six months' imprisonment, and a fine of 300*l*.

SINGULAR DUEL.—PARIS, *Saturday Evening*.—The famous duel between the Marquess Livron and M. du Trone took place this day, at twelve o'clock, in the forest of Senart, very near the chateau of Madame du Cayla. The whole affair has the appearance of an act of madmen, and resembles more a tournament than a modern duel. Du Trone, the young advocate, was habited in the costume of a Greek chief; each was mounted

on horseback, and had three seconds. The parties were armed with sabres, and on the onset, Livron was dismounted by the concussion of the horses. Both were slightly wounded, and the seconds then thought proper to interfere.—What adds to the singularity of this tournament, is, that it took place in the presence of 150 spectators! It is said that the Marquess found great difficulty in obtaining seconds, and that in consequence the duel, which was appointed to take place yesterday, was delayed until to-day. This affair will form the subject of the gossips of Paris for weeks to come.

21st.—LEITH.—A public meeting of the inhabitants of Leith was held in the Assembly Rooms there, which was numerously attended—Captain Duncan, Master of the Trinity House in the chair.

A report was read of the Committee appointed at last General Meeting for preparing a Bill for improving the municipal government and police of the town and port of Leith. It stated that they had given due Parliamentary notices, and employed eminent Counsel and Solicitors for drawing the Bill, the heads of which were prepared. It was intended that the Bill should interfere as little with vested rights as was possible. It had been thought at last meeting that the abuse and insolence of authority had then reached its height; but since then it had been carried still farther—the Lord Provost having affected fear of a riot, to quell which he had ordered out Constables, Police, and military, the latter provided with ball cartridge, for no conceivable purpose but to insult the people of Leith. The rights which the Bill was meant to confer, were not for the exclusive benefit of a few, but for the benefit of the whole community. The report then alluded to the Dock Com-

mission, and stated that the Committee was of opinion, that the Lord Provost meant, either to postpone the Dock Improvements, or to have them executed in a way which would relieve Edinburgh of its obligations. It concluded by observing, that the public spirit of Leith had triumphed over difficulties, which both their enemies and lukewarm friends had thought insuperable.

The heads of the Municipal Bill—(it having been previously agreed that the consideration of the Police Bill should be postponed, as it was not sufficiently matured)—were then read. The outlines were as to the election of a Magistracy and Council—(to consist of a Chief Magistrate, three Bailies, a Treasurer, and nine Councillors)—by the burghesses, and the qualification of burghesses, which were fixed at a yearly rent of L.15, and a payment of L.5 into the Common Good till 15th December next, when such payment is to be fixed by the new Magistracy, but not to exceed L.10, 10s.

The report and heads of the Bill were approved of by acclamation.

Mr Scott moved a vote of thanks to the Committee for the trouble they had had ; which also was carried by acclamation.

Upon the motion of Mr Crichton, it was agreed that the heads of the Bill should be sent to their solicitor in London, for the purpose of having it put into Parliamentary language ; and that printed copies of it should then be circulated.

Mr Gibson, painter, said that burghesses, in their corporate capacity, were too apt to degenerate into a close corporation ; and he thought the franchise should be conferred upon all householders of a certain amount of rent.

Mr Crichton observed, that the reason of the Committee for wishing

to create burghesses was, that the people of Leith had no public funds ; and the only way of raising funds, was to follow the example of two recently erected burghs of barony, by making those who acquired the right of election, contribute to the support of the new order of things.

Mr Macfie observed, that since they had to go to war, they must be provided with the sinews of war. About forty years ago, the people of Leith had stood forward against the Magistracy of Edinburgh, and having subscribed between L.700 and L.800, they extorted from that body a great boon—the Act 1789. About ten years afterwards, however, that body stole a march upon them, and obtained the Act 1793, which they have since contended did away with the former one. The meeting knew how they had defeated the Joint Stock Bill, (a laugh), and got the present Act, which, at the time, was called the Charter of the Port of Leith. He concluded by moving that a subscription be entered into for defraying the expenses of conducting the Bill through Parliament.—(Great applause.)

Mr Crichton observed, that their chances of success were much greater than many apprehended. Three years ago it was acknowledged that a new plan of municipal government was necessary for Leith, when it was proposed to invest its Magistrates with the powers of Justices of the Peace. Edinburgh, at that time, had obtained several new Justices ; and if such an addition was necessary to Edinburgh, it was still more so to Leith. Many grounds were then stated by Bailie Mackie in behalf of what was recommended for Leith ; but various objections to the measure were stated by the Lord Advocate in a letter to Mr Secretary Peel, which letter Mr C. now read as follows :—

“ Had I been consulted in regard to the extension of the city commission, I should certainly have dissuaded it. I formerly observed to you, that it is by the discharge of official duty, however troublesome, that the importance of the Magisterial situation is maintained; and that in my opinion, the Magistrates of Edinburgh, by obtaining relief from the performance of such duty, had adopted a course, the tendency of which was to exhibit them as merely the managers of the city funds, and thus to lower the character of their office, and their own consequence in holding it. The same observations seem applicable to Leith, and I cannot help believing, that the respectable individuals now filling the office of Magistrates of that town, and Mr Mackie in particular, to whose zeal and efficiency in the performance of the duties of his office, I can bear ample testimony, will on reflection be satisfied that neither of the propositions submitted to your consideration could with propriety be entertained, *and that, if any remedy should become necessary, for the evil which he described, it will better be effected by a legislative enactment, increasing the number of the Bailies of Leith, than by any alteration on the Commission of the Peace.*”

In a letter addressed to Bailie Mackie by Mr Peel, the Hon. Secretary, in reference to the Lord Advocate's letter, thus expressed himself:—“ That letter appears to me so fully to set forth the points on which the question turns, that I deem it unnecessary to say more than that I entirely coincide in his lordship's view of the case.” The last sentence of the Lord Advocate's letter, and Mr Peel's approbation of it, completely sanction the principle, that the government of a community may, and ought to be changed, when its interests require it; and that statesmen will view very

lightly the supposed rights of the city of Edinburgh when opposed by expediency. The people of Leith, when they met formerly, had a case clearly made out for them; but had anything been wanted to complete that case, it was completed by the extraordinary conduct of the Lord Provost on the night of the 24th of October. If they allowed such conduct to pass unnoticed, they deserved to meet the same again. Their opponents had the advantage of having the public money in their hands, by which they hoped to tire out the patience of the people of Leith; but it was for them to show that they also had funds; and by the handsomeness of their subscriptions, they would attest the spirit by which they were animated; and without some proof of that spirit, their Committee could not be expected to act with effect.

After some cursory remarks by Mr Philip, Mr Walker, Mr Fyfe, Mr Scarth, and Mr Macfie, about Members of Incorporations being entitled to the privileges of burgesses, thanks were voted to the chairman, and the meeting separated.

We understand that L.480 were subscribed in the room, to promote the object of the meeting.

PROCEDURE IN THE COURT OF SESSION.

21st.—EDINBURGH.—This day the Lord President addressed the Court to the following effect:—

“ MY LORDS—I have read all the papers which have been given in to the First Division of the Court: I am sorry to say, that very few of these, amounting to about one hundred in number, are framed according to the regulations established by the 6th Act of Geo. IV. and the Acts of Sederunt. Of the cases, not above four

or five are in proper shape. They are generally as bad as the papers under the old forms, or worse; and as to the closed records which have been sent us from the Outer House, they are, with scarcely any exception, most improperly framed, being stuffed with long quotations from documents which are founded on as evidence,—with inferences, and I don't know all what, instead of being distinct substantive propositions. The documentary evidence may, no doubt, be put in an appendix for the sake of reference; but the condescendences and answers should contain none of them. These documents should be laid before us, as evidence is brought before a Jury, not in the condescendence and answers, but as proof of the statements in these papers after the record is closed. The salutary rules established by the Statute and Acts of Sederunt, are excellent, if carried properly into effect. But if this system is to go on, alas! where are we? I cannot account for this departure from correct practice, except by supposing that in general the counsel devolves the task of preparing these papers upon the agent, and the agent remits it to his head clerk, and the head clerk remits it to the youngest apprentice; and sure I am, that many of the papers which I have lately read are so improperly framed, that any apprentice of one year's standing who committed such blundering ought to be whipt. What others may do I cannot tell; but some of the condescendences, &c. with their quotations and inferences were so completely at variance with the spirit and rules of the statute, that I was obliged to throw them aside in disgust, and could not finish the perusal. Nor can I altogether acquit my brethren in the Outer House of participating in these irregularities. I have no doubt that they close the

record in many cases before it is properly made up, with a view to save expenses to the parties; but, alas! the expense is only aggravated by such a course; for when the record comes to us improperly made up, we are under the necessity either of re-mitting it again to the Outer House to be corrected, or to judge of the case in an incomplete shape. The parties take our judgment to the House of Lords, who again send the case back here, and we to the Lord Ordinary, and we know not what to do amidst these multiplied inaccuracies, which tend only to increase expense and delay.—Some means, in short, must be taken to put an end to this evil. And unless the counsel and agents shall carry the appointed regulations into full effect, I shall be obliged, in such cases as I find so improperly conducted, to direct my clerk to write an official letter to the party injured; intimating that his case has been bungled by his agent and counsel, and that he ought not to pay the account of expenses. Something must be done to correct the evil."

22d.—EDINBURGH.—A meeting of the Faculty of Advocates was held this day, at which Mr James Moncreiff was proposed to fill the office of Dean of Faculty by the Solicitor General. This motion was seconded by Mr Jeffrey, and unanimously carried.

WEST INDIES.—In the Berbice papers which have reached us, we find a notification from Governor Baird, abolishing certain distinctions which a previous order of 1799 had required to be made between the white and free coloured people by the under sheriff, in the execution of his duty. Free people, of whatever colour, are to be treated alike by that officer. Another distinction (which showed strikingly the jealous feeling of the

whites in the colony) has also been abolished. In the distribution of a public burying-ground, a separation was made not only between the part allotted for slaves and that for free people, but also between the burial-place for the whites and that for the free coloured people. By an order of the Governor this last distinction is abolished, and the bodies of the free persons of colour may now repose among those of their white brethren. The Colonial Department and the Governor are entitled to credit for breaking down these distinctions, which only serve to irritate a class of persons whose affections it is of importance to conciliate. Mr Power, the protector of slaves, had commenced the duties of his office.

MID-LOTHIAN AND FIFE FERRY TRUSTEES.

28th.—EDINBURGH.—A meeting of the committee of the Trustees was held in the Royal Exchange Coffee-room, when a letter was produced and read to them from Mr Greenhill, renouncing his lease of the Ferries! A spirited discussion was about to take place, when a gentleman moved, that as the meeting was without powers to come to any decision on the subject, a meeting of the County of Fife should be held at Cupar, on 14th December next, to take Mr Greenhill's letter into consideration, and resolve upon taking such steps as should be judged necessary; which motion was unanimously agreed to.

BOURDEAUX, November 22.—The man of blood, the Robespierre of the Colonies, has breathed his last—Victor Hughes is dead, and humanity again respire. The accomplice of those wretches who overwhelmed France in misery and ruin, he surpassed them all in his cruel mission.

Landing at Guadaloupe, by an effect of that fatality that presides over misfortune, he proclaimed liberty to the blacks, and he slaughtered their masters. The moiety of the proprietors fell under his executions, and every family bewailed its victim. The colony, then extremely rich, was plundered, and Hughes amassed, by this means, immense wealth. The scourge of that quarter of the world, he produced insurrections in St Lucia, St Vincent, and Grenada; but he failed at Dominica and Martinico—there his emissaries received their merited reward; the whole of them were captured, and put to death. The cruelties for which this terrible man was notorious, can scarce be enumerated, and some of them even surpass belief. Recalled in 1798, he was confirmed by the Consuls in his office of Commissioner of Guiana, where, as in Guadaloupe, he acquired a considerable fortune by his exactions. After the capitulation of that colony, he returned to France, where Bonaparte made him disgorge a part of the gains of his robbery. He then sought shelter in the department of the Gironde, in the commune of Rion, where he remained until his death, with the exception of six months that he passed with a person named Mark Bordes, a potter, his nephew, and formerly his confidential secretary.—*Memorial Bordelais*.

29th.—DREADFUL ACCIDENT.—LIVERPOOL.—This morning, about three o'clock, a most shocking and fatal accident occurred in Norris Court, Spitalfields, by the falling of a chimney of one of the houses, by which the roofs of two adjoining houses were forced in, and, lamentable to relate, three persons were killed on the spot, and one dangerously and eight slightly wounded. The cause of this melancholy and fatal event is said to be the dilapidated

state of the chimney.—Richard Peers, a poor aged labourer, who lived in the centre house, and who is himself much bruised, said, that, at an early hour this morning, he was awakened by a rumbling noise and the falling of bricks on his head and body; he awakened his wife, and they called to their lodgers, who slept in the room immediately above them; but receiving no answer, they both ran to the street, and they had scarcely got clear of the house before the roof of that, as well as of the adjoining one, fell in with a dreadful crash, and became one heap of ruins. The neighbours, who were by this time fully aware of the unfortunate accident, and had assembled in great numbers, immediately commenced digging in the ruins, in order to extricate the sufferers. In the house nearest the bottom of the court were found Peter Landley and his wife, locked in each other's arms, but quite dead. In the house where Peers resided were found four persons wounded and one dead; and from the ruins of the other house five persons were extricated, one of them very dangerously bruised, and the other in a more slight degree; making, as we have stated above, a total of three killed and nine wounded; an awful extent of human calamity, when the limited extent in which it occurred is considered.

DREADFUL STORM.—STIRLING.—On Friday week, after a heavy fall of snow, we were visited by a tremendous storm of wind, which increased to a perfect hurricane early on Saturday morning. With the exception of unroofing a few thatched houses, and the tearing up of some trees, we have heard of no material injury sustained in this quarter. To the eastward, along the Forth, however, we understand its effects have been more seriously felt. In Alloa and its neigh-

bourhood, several houses have been much injured; and in Clackmannan, three or four houses have been thrown down. From one of them, an old woman narrowly escaped with her life. The storm had laid in ruins one end of her house, and just gave her time to escape from the other when it was also blown down. One of several trees in the churchyard, which were laid prostrate, falling upon one of the windows of the church, broke it in pieces. The farmers in the neighbourhood also suffered either from the violence of the wind overturning their stacks, and strewing the grain in all directions, or from its unroofing and otherwise cutting up their out-houses.—*Stirling Journal*.

PERTH.—Disastrous accounts have reached this from the north. A tremendous storm of wind and snow visited most of the Highland districts on Friday week. The number of cattle and sheep that have been smothered is immense. One grazier has lost no fewer than 70 nolt. Carriers from Atholl and Rannoch were arrested on their way to this, by the snow. The Inverness coach, which ought to have arrived here on Friday evening, is still detained. The depth of the snow in some places is thirteen feet. Many human lives, by the suddenness and severity of the storm, it is feared have also been lost.

29th.—INVERNESS.—Friday last, the 24th inst. this part of the country was visited by a storm, at once so tempestuous in character, and disastrous in its effects, that the remembrance of it will remain for many days to come, with all who were witnesses of it. About seven o'clock that morning, the gale burst out with fury, accompanied with thick falling snow, and occasional showers of sleet, in a manner that afforded but little hopes for the safety of any living thing that

might have been exposed to its fury. During the whole of that day, and the following night, the storm continued unabated,—and even in town, it became a matter of peril to pass from one house or street to another. The loss of lives of people venturing home from the town to their places of abode in the country, is variously estimated: there is a certainty, however, that no fewer than eleven or twelve perished in the vicinity of Inverness. A man and a woman were found dead next morning near Castle Stewart, and two other persons died on the road from this town to Nairn. A woman of the name of Grant, although accompanied by a sister, who could offer her little help, expired at the Bridge of Moniak, within a short distance of her own house. Two young men who left town for Strathearn in the evening, were found in a state of exhaustion by the way-side, and died shortly thereafter, while under the hands of some kind friends who were administering to their relief. Two men (Alexander Fraser, labourer, and Peter Cameron, a weaver) were found dead—the former near Cuidrash, and the latter near Ardedrean, in the hill between Urquhart and the Aird. A woman and her son, a boy of fifteen years of age, were likewise found dead at Duntemple, near the church of Boleskine, and within 200 yards of their own door. Thus, there is the certainty of eleven persons at least having perished that evening. A tailor of the name of Fraser, from Garnabeg in Urquhart, left Abridgen on Friday, for his own house, and has not since been heard of. Two of the shepherds on the farm of Borlum, near Fort Augustus, have likewise been amissing since Friday; and it is feared that these last must be added to this melancholy list of deaths.

THE KING'S VISITS TO COVENT GARDEN AND DRURY LANE THEATRES.

LONDON 30th, 31st.—His Majesty visited Covent Garden Theatre on Thursday night, which was crowded to an overflow immediately after the doors were opened. On the King's appearance in his box, which was elegantly fitted up for the occasion, he was received with the most enthusiastic cheers, and the National Anthem was sung by the whole strength of the house, the audience joining in full chorus. The performances were, the Grand Romantic Fairy Opera of *Oberon*, with the farce of the *Scape Goat*. Between the play and farce, "God save the King" was again sung with the same accompaniments. His Majesty repeatedly testified his approbation of the entertainments, and on the dropping of the curtain bowed to the house, amid the acclamations of the audience.

On Friday evening, his Majesty visited Drury Lane Theatre. The King arrived in the same state as on the preceding evening at the other house, and entered his box punctually at seven o'clock. The crowd was as great, the expressions of loyalty, were as frequent and enthusiastic, and they were acknowledged with equal dignity and cordiality. As before, "God save the King" was sung four times, and "Rule Britannia" once, the audience joining vigorously in the chorus. The Opera of "The Devil's Bridge," and the Farce of "Love, Law, and Physic," were the performances chosen for the evening by his Majesty. Braham was in fine voice, and was applauded to the very echo. Mr Liston played Lubin Log, his Majesty having been graciously pleased to command the attendance of that grotesque and irresistibly comic performer—a command that suddenly

disturbed him at Brighton, whither he had gone to recruit his health. This performer and Harley excited lots of laughter, in some of which his Majesty joined very heartily, and finally retired amidst universal cheering, both within and without.

DECEMBER.

1.—CRATHIE, (ABERDEENSHIRE.)
—We were last week visited by one of the most severe snow storms that this country has witnessed for many years, the melancholy and destructive effects of which will be long remembered in the annals of the country.—Not a few lives have been lost, and serious apprehensions are entertained for more. The loss of property, principally sheep, is immense. It began to blow on Friday afternoon from the north-east, accompanied with heavy showers of snow. During the night, it increased to a perfect hurricane, and continued the whole of Saturday with unabated fury. On Sunday morning, when it cleared up, the country presented one dreary waste of trackless snow. Houses, woods, and rivers, lay hid beneath the formless wild. So completely were the roads choked up, that neither pastor nor flock appeared at church—a circumstance that has not occurred in this parish for the last eighty years from the same cause. The late mild weather, and scarcity of fodder, had induced many people to keep their sheep and cattle in the glens later than usual. During the Friday, on the appearance of approaching storm, all were busy in collecting, and bringing to a place of safety, their scattered herds; and it is only remarkable, considering the number exposed, that so few fell-victims to that dreadful day. A man

and two women belonging to Corgarff, on their return from Tomintoul market, perished in the snow on the Friday night; the bodies have since been found. One poor fellow belonging to this parish, of the name of John Brown, in returning from the hill of Crathienaird, perished on the Saturday. His body was found on Wednesday last beneath a wreath of snow. Among the numerous hair-breadth escapes of that day, one deserves to be recorded. A young man belonging to this parish, and his sister, a girl of eighteen years of age, were obliged to take refuge in a hut, two miles distant from any house, where they passed the Friday night. About day-break on Saturday morning, they left the hut for home. They had not gone far when the poor girl sunk down exhausted, unable to proceed farther. In this dreadful dilemma, the brother determined to save her life or share her fate. Sometimes carrying her on his back, sometimes in his arms, he at last succeeded, after an exertion of six hours, in gaining a wood which he knew. She was now speechless. Having placed her under the shelter of some trees, and covered her with his coat and vest, he hastened for assistance to the nearest house, whither she was carried, and the poor fellow had the satisfaction of seeing her restored to life. It is calculated that upwards of one thousand sheep have been lost in the parish of Crathie and Braemar alone—a loss that will be severely felt by many a poor family. In several places, whole plantations of young wood are laid level with the ground. Full-grown trees of considerable size, and which stood the bitter blast of many a winter storm, have been torn up by the roots, or broken from the immense weight of snow on their branches.

Mr Gulley, the famous *ci-devant* pugilist, now the General Scott of

Newmarket and Doncaster, was the highest bidder for the Ware Park estate in Hertfordshire, the seat of Mr Byde. When this celebrated warrior was fighting Gregson, in Sir John Sebright's park, in that county, some 16 years ago, he did not expect so soon to be in a condition to take his station among the aristocracy of Hertfordshire. It is said that the price of the Ware Park property, for which he offered about L.44,000, is a trifle compared with the value of such an estate as Mr Gulley has, from his great wealth, now in his power to purchase.

The lovers of the picturesque and beautiful will lament to hear, that the Cascades of Tivoli, the recreation and the pride of ancient and of modern Rome, have ceased to exist. During the night of the 18th of last month, the Tivoli suddenly disappeared; the waters having found egress underground, and re-appearing at a considerable distance, under the Neptune Grotto.

The London Gazette announces the advancement of Lord Amherst to an Earldom, and Lord Combermere to be a Viscount; Earl Amherst's second title is Viscount Holmsdale.

The Blue Ribband, vacant by the death of the late Earl of Winchelsea, is destined for his Grace the Duke of Devonshire.

Charles L. Bonaparte, Prince of Morignion, and son of Lucien Bonaparte, arrived on Thursday last at Hatchett's Hotel, Dover Street, Piccadilly, from America.

STAMP OFFICE.—The case of Mr Sedgwick, the late chairman, we understand, has at length been determined. Under all the circumstances, it has been decided that he is entitled to no pension. The house heretofore occupied by the chairman is to be converted into offices. A reduction of about forty subordinates is to take

place, and the plan of establishing an open Stamp Warehouse, possessing all the facilities of a common law stationer's shop, is to be carried into execution.

DEATH OF THE MARQUIS OF HASTINGS.—By a letter received from Naples, dated the 30th of November, we learn that the noble marquis died on board his Majesty's ship *Revenge* on the 28th, and that his remains were to be conveyed by his Majesty's ship *Ariadne*, Captain Fitzclarence, to Malta, for interment, in conformity with the wishes his lordship had expressed. The Marchioness of Hastings will remain at Naples for some time. Vice-Admiral Sir H. Neale, in the *Revenge*, was to proceed on the 3d instant to Marseilles.

12th. — **BRIGHTON.** — **DEATH OF LORD KINNAIRD.** — The severe indisposition of Lord Kinnaird here, we mentioned some weeks back; but subsequent to that, a favourable change was thought to have taken place, and fervent hopes, in consequence, were entertained of his recovery; but such hopes, unfortunately, were not fated to be verified; and we have now the painful task to state, that his lordship expired at his residence in Regency Square, yesterday morning.

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.—The utmost activity prevails in every department of government connected with the immediate embarkation of troops for Portugal. On Tuesday morning, the following notice was posted at Lloyd's:—

“Navy Office, Dec. 12.

“The principal Officers and Commissioners of his Majesty's Navy do hereby give notice, that they will immediately receive tenders, at this Office, of ships, for the conveyance of troops from Deptford and Portsmouth, to Lisbon, where they are to be discharged, to be hired at the rate

of—per ton, for the voyage, or at—per ton per calendar month, for three months certain.

(Signed) "T. HARDING."

The amount of force which will be dispatched in the first instance, and upon the emergency of the occasion, is five thousand. Of the troops composing this force, there are to be four squadrons of cavalry, a circumstance which indicates that it is not contemplated their services will be confined to garrison duty only. The following are the names of the regiments, their prescribed movements, and the officers who will have the chief command :—

Lieut.-General Sir W. H. Clinton
to command.

10th Hussars—12th Lancers.

Six Companies of the Grenadier
Guards.

Six ditto of the 3d regiment of
Guards.

Six ditto of the 4th regiment of
Foot.

Six ditto of the 60th regiment of
Foot, 1st battalion.

Six ditto of the 63d regiment of
Foot.

Six ditto of the 23d regiment, from
Gibraltar.

Six ditto of the 64th regiment, from
ditto.

15th regiment of Foot, from Ire-
land.

75th regiment of Foot, from ditto.

Four Companies of the Royal Ar-
tillery have received orders to pre-
pare for embarkation.

One Company of the Royal Staff
Corps is ordered to proceed to Ports-
mouth for embarkation.

Three Brigades—Sir H. Bouverie,
Sir T. Arbuthnot, and Sir E. Blake-
ney.

10th, 12th, and 15th regiments of
Dragoons.

A detachment of Engineers, and
two Companies of Sappers and Mi-
ners.

The Cavalry will be commanded
by Colonel Wyndham.

Wednesday, four brigades of the
Royal Artillery marched from Wool-
wich, on their route to Portsmouth,
for embarkation.

Commissary-General Bisset is to be
at the head of the Commissariat in
Portugal.

The 63d regiment of infantry
marched on Tuesday morning from
Windsor, for embarkation at Ply-
mouth. The soldiers appeared in high
spirits on the occasion, and the great-
est enthusiasm prevailed amongst
them.

Wednesday morning at eight o'clock,
the left wing of the 3d regiment of
foot guards, marched from the King's
Mews, Charing Cross, for Kingston,
on their route to Portsmouth, for em-
barkation. The remainder of the re-
giment marched on Thursday morn-
ing from Portman Barracks, for the
same destination.

On Friday morning, the 1st batta-
lion of the 1st regiment of grenadier
guards left Knightsbridge barracks
soon after eight o'clock, and proceed-
ed through St James's Park to the
Bird-Cage Walk, accompanied by an
immense concourse of spectators—the
band of the regiment playing, alter-
nately, the heroic Scots air of "Over
the hills and far away," and the beau-
tiful melody of Colman's words of
"Can you to battle march away"—
tunes which warmed some hearts, and
watered many a fair cheek with tears.
The troops, on their arrival at Storey's
Gate, unfixed their bayonets, and con-
tinued their route to Deptford, where
they are to embark on board the
George the Fourth steam boat, which
arrived in the River on Thursday
from Lisbon, and is capable of accom-
modating four or five hundred troops.

A notice was on Friday put up at
Lloyd's from the Navy Office, that
the Commissioners want conveyance

to Gibraltar for 310 tons of provisions, and 131 tons of light ordnance stores.

The 10th (North Lincoln) regiment of foot, now stationed at Lime-rick, and the 11th (North Devon) regiment of infantry, at present stationed at Waterford, have received orders to prepare for immediate embarkation at Cork, for Portugal.

The troops from Portsmouth will be conveyed to Portugal, in four line-of-battle ships. Lord Amelius Beauclerk, will have the command of the whole naval force.

The appointments and arrangements for the aid to Portugal have been made, for the most part, on the suggestions of the Duke of Wellington.

STEAM BOATS FOR PORTUGAL.—The following was posted at Lloyd's on Thursday:—

“Navy Office, Dec. 14, 1826.

“The principal Officers and Commissioners of the Navy Office request that the owners of steam vessels will send their address to them, that, in case their services should be required, the Commissioners may know where to apply for them.

(Signed) “G. SMITH.”

The General Steam Navigation Company have very promptly offered the whole of their fleet, consisting of between 20 and 30 vessels, for the use of his Majesty's service on the present emergency. The Sir Edward Banks has, in consequence of this offer, been declared by government to be in readiness to proceed on Friday with one of his Majesty's messengers to Lisbon.

13th.—CUPAR, FIFE.—FIFE AND MID-LOTHIAN FERRIES.—On Thursday, a very full meeting of the Trustees of the management of the Fife and Mid-Lothian Ferries was held at Cupar, at which a letter was read from Mr Greenhill, their lessee, re-

nouncing, in the most unqualified manner, the lease which he had entered into with them; and a statement respecting his property was submitted to them to show his inability, from the want of funds, to continue to conduct the business he had undertaken. After much discussion respecting the propriety of accepting his renunciation, and respecting the consequences which it might entail on the Trust, a resolution was proposed by Lord Rosslyn, to the effect, that the Committee of Management be empowered to take possession of the ferries, boats, &c. immediately, and to proceed to make an agreement with Mr Greenhill, relieving him from the obligations he lay under to them, reserving all stipulations as to claims for damages, &c. to be sanctioned by a general meeting. An amendment on this motion was made by Mr Stuart in the following terms:

1. That this meeting do now authorize the Committee of Management to treat with the lessee respecting the abandonment of the Ferry.

2. That this meeting instruct them to be advised by counsel, on any questions which may occur; but to make no final arrangement, except so far as may respect the interim possession of the Ferry, without the consent of a General Meeting.

3. That the meeting adjourn till Monday the 8th day of January.

The amendment was carried by a majority of 43 to 18.

A very daring attack was made on the mail-coach between Dublin and Cork, for which full preparations appear to have been made, by a very numerous and determined banditti, but which was fortunately unsuccessful. On reaching a place called Rockville, about three miles from Cashel, on the road to Cahir, at about half past one o'clock, two shots were fired from behind a wall, about breast-

high. The coachman immediately endeavoured to push forward, but the way was completely impeded by three cars, heavily laden with stones, fastened together with strong ropes, and placed across the road. One of the shots had also struck one of the leaders, and mortally wounded him, so that nothing remained for it but battle. The guard, who had spiritedly fired, and again loaded, called on the "cowardly rascals to come forward;" they did not, however, accept the challenge, but again fired a volley of about twelve shots, which they several times repeated, but which happily took no effect on either the coachman, guard, or passengers, two of whom, Messrs Connor and Wilmot, courageously, and while the shots were passing around them, descended from the coach, and extricated the wounded horse from the harness; in doing which, one of them received a desperate kick from him, immediately after which he expired. Their exertions were not, however, sufficient to remove the cars for some time, during which the party continued to fire; but finding so spirited a return, they did not venture out, and at length went off. The coach then proceeded, and arriving at a police station, about a mile distant, a party was dispatched in pursuit of the banditti.

ATROCIOUS OUTRAGE AT ATHLONE.—On Tuesday evening, about half past six o'clock, the house of Craggan Castle, the property of George Longworth, Esq. was attacked and entered by a party of Rockites, armed with new pikes and pistols, five of whom entered the back parlour, where Mrs Longworth, a charming and amiable young woman, was sitting instructing her daughter, when they presented a pistol at Mrs Longworth's breast, and threatened to shoot her if she made any noise or

resistance. She, notwithstanding, screamed so much, that Mr George Longworth, and Mr Francis Longworth, his nephew, rushed out of the front parlour into the back one, where they found Mrs Longworth with the pistol to her breast. Mr F. Longworth was immediately seized by the five men, and though he made every resistance in his power, yet being unarmed, he was overpowered, placed upon his knees, and stabbed with a pike in four places. In the meantime, Mr George Longworth ran up stairs, while his nephew was struggling with the robbers, to procure arms; and when the villains heard him returning down stairs, they immediately fled, leaving Mr Francis Longworth weltering in his blood; they also stabbed one of their own party, mistaking him for Mr George Longworth. They left the dead body of their comrade behind them. Mr Francis Longworth's life is despaired of, and Mr and Mrs George Longworth are obliged to leave their house, and come to live in this garrison. I am concerned to state, that there were seven men-servants in the house, who made no sort of resistance, but let the villains get up stairs without giving the least alarm, though they passed through the kitchen, where they were all at dinner, and there is every reason to believe that some of them were concerned in letting the villains in. It is the opinion of the magistrates on the inquest, all the neighbouring ones having attended, that nothing short of the insurrection act can save the county.

21st. — DUNKELD.—One of the most deplorable accidents that ever happened in this quarter, occurred last night. As the Caledonian coach was coming down the brae, a little above Pulney, near the place called Duncan Hog's Hole, the hook or tackle in front of the pole gave

way, and the horses ran off. The coach, from the want of the pole, became unmanageable. A person of the name of W. Robertson, a painter, who was sitting beside the coachman, laid hold of the reins next him. This had the effect of drawing the horses to one side, and the coach upset. Poor Robertson fell on a dike, on the side of the road, and a stone piercing his forehead above the right eye, he was killed on the spot. Donald M'Intosh, the guard, who was on the back dicky, was also thrown on the dike, and had his skull fractured so dreadfully that he died to-day. He had been connected with the coach for these nine years, and has left a wife and several children. Robertson is generally regretted. Several of the passengers were hurt, one lady severely. An investigation into the circumstances that led to this melancholy catastrophe has been partly gone into to-day, and, as far as it has proceeded, has been in favour of the driver.

EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND.—The Committee of the General Assembly for promoting Education in Scotland

has been employed, since the last Assembly, in following out their measures in behalf of the population of the Highlands and Islands. They have already established 22 schools; and the required accommodations are preparing for upwards of 40 more. They have marked out in whole nearly 100 stations, where schools on this scheme are to be placed. Such an establishment, under the superintendence and control of the General Assembly, will confer a most important benefit on the country.

Principal Baird, as Convener of the General Assembly's Committee for increasing the means of Education and Religious Instruction in the Highlands and Islands, received 30*l.* from India, for behoof of the Assembly's fund for that object, before the collection for the fund had at all begun even in Scotland. Within these few days he has received in aid of the said fund 10*l.* from St Helena. These sums, it is mentioned to their honour and to that of their father, are given as donations by three sons of the Rev. William M'Ritchie, minister of the parish of Clunie, in Perthshire.

No. IV.

ECCLESIASTICAL CHRONICLE.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Edinburgh, May 17.

Wednesday evening, according to ancient custom, the Lord Provost and Magistrates waited upon the Right Honourable James Lord Forbes, his Majesty's High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, at the Royal Hotel, and presented his Grace with the keys of the City.

At twelve o'clock, his Grace walked in procession to the High Church, supported by the Marquis of Tweeddale and the Earl of Moray, and accompanied by a great number of noblemen and gentlemen, forming the most splendid *cortege* that has been seen for some years. The line of procession was kept by the 7th Hussars, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Thornhill, and the grenadier company of the 17th regiment, the fine bands of each attending. The day being remarkably fine, this annual pageant shone with full lustre.

The Reverend Dr Cook of Laurencekirk, the Moderator, preached

an eloquent and impressive sermon from Romans, iv. 25, "Who was delivered for our offences."—After divine service, the Moderator and members of Assembly proceeded to the Aisle, where the Lord High Commissioner took his seat on the throne, and the Assembly having been constituted,

The Moderator stated, that the Assembly had now, according to custom, to appoint a successor to him in the chair which he then filled, and to which honour he proposed that Dr Thomas Taylor, minister of Tibbermuir, be elected.

This motion having been seconded by Principal Nicoll, was unanimously agreed to; whereupon Dr Taylor was called in, and his election intimated to him.

Dr Taylor having taken the chair, his Majesty's commission was then read, and ordered to be recorded, as was also the Royal letter.

His Grace the Commissioner then addressed the Assembly, in course of which he aptly alluded to the successful efforts of the committee of last Assembly on the subject of education

in the Highlands and Islands, towards which object he now presented his Majesty's warrant for 2000*l*.

The Moderator replied to his Grace's address.

A letter from Dr Macknight, sub-clerk of the Assembly, was produced and read, intimating that the state of his health put it out of his power to appear at this Assembly, and throwing himself upon the indulgence of the house, that they might appoint a person to supply his place in the present Assembly.

Dr Nicoll, after passing a warm eulogy on the talents of Dr Macknight, proposed that out of respect to his feelings, Dr Lee should be appointed to officiate for him in this Assembly.

Mr Moncreiff disclaimed all feelings of disrespect for Dr Macknight, and regretted his protracted illness, but could not agree to the proposition of Dr Nicoll. There was scarcely a member present, he supposed, who had not expected that they were now to have the election of a person who should be permanently associated with Dr Macknight as sub-clerk, an office which required the exertion of a person, not during the sitting of the Assembly alone, but throughout the whole year; he therefore thought the time was come when they should appoint a person permanently to assist Dr Macknight; this should be done with every possible degree of tenderness, and there should be no interference with the emoluments which he and his family now enjoyed. It was necessary for the interests of the Church, and for the important duties in which they were to be engaged, that the appointment should be a permanent one; he would therefore move, that the Assembly do now proceed to elect a person to officiate with Dr Duncan, as conjunct sub-clerk along with Dr Macknight.

The Solicitor-General concurred in the views of his learned friend as to the propriety of making the appointment permanent, which, while it was necessary for the interests of the Church, could not be considered as disrespectful to Dr Macknight.

Dr Brunton thought that as Dr Macknight had come forward with a request to delay the appointment for one year, no permanent appointment should be made.

Dr M'Gill said, the appointment of a colleague to Dr Macknight would not interfere with his officiating, should he be again able to resume his duties.

Principal Macfarlane had not heard the most distant hint, before he left home, that the appointment was to have been decided this day, and considered it as a usurpation of the rights and privileges of his absent brethren to dispose of an important office without consulting them. An interim appointment had before been made, and where was the inconvenience of again adopting the same mode? For this there was a precedent in the years 1787 and 1788.

Mr Dundas of Arniston approved of the motion of his honourable friend Mr Moncreiff.

Mr Somerville of Currie spoke in favour of an interim appointment, and leaving the nomination to Dr Macknight.

Mr Moncreiff replied; and, after some farther observations by different members, the vote was called, when there appeared—

For Dr Nicoll's motion,	66
For Mr Moncreiff's,	134

Majority for making the appointment permanent,	68
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Dr Nicoll then moved that Dr Lee be appointed sub-clerk conjointly with Dr Macknight. which was seconded

by the Solicitor-General, and unanimously agreed to.

Dr Lee was then called in, and his election intimated to him, for which he returned thanks, and proceeded to his duties.

The rest of the business was mere routine, and the Assembly adjourned till next day at two o'clock.

FRIDAY—The Assembly appointed the following gentlemen to preach before his Grace. On the first Sunday, the Rev. Andrew Bell of Torphichen to preach in the forenoon, and the Rev. Alexander Christison of Foulden in the afternoon. On the second Sunday, the Rev. John Murray of Abbotshall to preach in the forenoon, and the Rev. Andrew Bethune Duncan of Culross in the afternoon.

The Assembly then adjourned till next day at noon.

SATURDAY, at twelve o'clock, the Assembly met. The draft of the answer to his Majesty's letter was read and approved of, and the Moderator, authorized to sign it in name of the Assembly; and his Grace was requested to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The Committee for revising commissions referred the commission from the burgh of Culross in favour of Mr Gibson Craig, advocate, to the assembly, because the said commission was not attested by the Presbytery of the bounds; but the Presbytery clerk had appended a note to the commission, stating, that the attestation was refused solely because the certificate from the parish of which Mr Gibson Craig was an ordained elder, bore to be dated in 1825. A certificate was produced along with the commission from the reverend Mr Somerville of Currie, who also stated, in his place, that had he known it would have been required, he would have forwarded the certificate, as a

matter of course, to the clerk of the Presbytery of Dunfermline.

Mr James Gibson Craig, W. S. said it was quite unusual for Presbyteries to demand certificates annually in favour of elders who had previously held the office. He contended that two questions were raised by the present objection, which it was advisable should be settled. First, whether it was necessary that an elder elected for a burgh should annually produce a new certificate to the Presbytery of the bounds, the practice being quite the contrary. And, secondly, whether the want of such certificate would be, as in the circumstances of this case, purged by the Assembly. It appeared to him, that, having once produced a certificate, it was unnecessary to do so every year.

After some discussion, a deliverance, on the motion of Principal Nicoll, to the following effect, was adopted unanimously:—"That it is not denied that Presbyteries have an undoubted right to demand a certificate annually, but in respect that the practice is not usually followed, and in the peculiar circumstances of the case, the Assembly agree to sustain the commission."

On the motion of Dr Cook, who eulogized the conduct and merits of Dr Macknight, the Moderator was directed to write to the Rev. Doctor, in name of the Assembly, to inform him of the election of Dr Lee to be conjoint depute-clerk—to make him acquainted with the sentiments of respect for past exertions, which were expressed from all sides of the House, and their regret for his continued indisposition.

Some extracts from the records of the proceedings of the Trustees of the Widows' Fund were read, from which it appeared that the collector of that fund, is in future to receive

200*l.* per annum of salary, his clerk 100*l.*, and the clerk to the trustee a similar sum. Principal Nicoll, after paying a compliment to the diligence and zeal of Sir Harry Moncreiff, who had not, he said, been in any way instrumental in procuring the necessary increase of salary, moved that the conduct of the Trustees be approved of.

The report of the Committee for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts was given in and read, from which it appeared that the Directors of the East India Company have given all the pledge that could be expected of them, or is usually given in such cases. Dr Inglis received the thanks of the Assembly for his exertions in this cause; and it was subsequently agreed that the General Assembly shall appoint a Committee, to be selected from all the Presbyteries of the Church, to hold its meetings in Edinburgh, for the direction and management of all the concerns of the proposed establishment.

The Assembly having called for the report of its Committee of Bills, it appeared that 25 petitions, of various kinds, had been presented.

After arranging the business of the week, the Assembly adjourned.

MONDAY.—A communication was read from Dr Mearns, not a member of this Assembly, as convener of a committee relative to the Scots Church in Canada, requesting, with the Assembly's permission, to decline any farther charge of that business.

Dr M'Gill was anxious that this matter should not be despaired of, as very favourable accounts had lately been received from that quarter. He therefore moved that the committee be renewed, which was agreed to; Dr Lee to be convener.

Dr Baird then produced and read the report of the committee on the means of increasing education in

Scotland, than which a more important report had never been communicated to the Assembly. The reverend Principal first alluded to the voluminous documents referred to in the report; the first of which consisted of the four large folio volumes then on the table of the Assembly. In these four volumes were embodied the hand-writing of every minister of the Church of Scotland, and they contained returns in regard to the state of education in every parish in Scotland. Another volume which he presented, contained the substance of all these returns in a tabular form; in it there were not less than 56 columns, and 47,000 separate entries. Having also given in the minute book, letter book, &c. of the committee, the reverend Principal proceeded to read the report, from which it appeared that returns had been made from every parish in Scotland, comprising a population of 2,003,850; that collections had been made in 420 parishes, averaging 11*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* each, making a total of 4863*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*, besides donations, amounting to 484*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, and 78*l.* of annual subscriptions. From these, together with interest and several sums intimated, but not yet paid, they might reckon on a fund of 5800*l.* The first school had been established at Ullapool, in the parish of Lochbroom, a parish 58 miles in length by 38 in breadth, and the whole number of stations where the committee at the present date had agreed to establish schools, amounted to 42. There were other applications for schools before the committee; but these, as they had been more recently presented, had not yet been sufficiently considered by the committee. The report concluded with congratulating the Assembly on its success.

Dr Nicoll warmly complimented the zeal and diligence of the commit-

tee, but particularly of its convener, Principal Baird, who took the opportunity of eulogizing the conduct of his colleagues. On Dr Nicoll's motion, thanks were voted and delivered by the moderator to the committee; and, on the motion of the Solicitor-General, the report was ordered to be printed.

Dr Chalmers was afraid lest the splendid commencement of this measure should have a bad effect on the future continuance of its supplies, and was anxious that it should be known, that even on the most moderate principles of calculation, the committee were not yet able to occupy with permanent schools one twentieth part of the field which was before them.

Mr Dempster of Denny remarked, that while thousands, and even hundreds of thousands, were allowed by government for the education of the people of Ireland, this country was left with the aid of only two thousand a-year to educate her own children. He thought application should be made to Parliament for a grant to forward this measure.

Mr Whigham did not think that the funds of the country, supplied from the sources which had already contributed so munificently, would be inadequate to the object.

It was ultimately agreed, on the motion of Dr Nicoll, to re-appoint the committee, to authorize a collection to be made between and the 1st February, in those parishes which had not yet collected for the fund, it being left optional to those which had collected the first year, to make another collection for the incoming year, according as circumstances might favour. The committee to report to next General Assembly.

The Assembly proceeded to the consideration of the overtures on small livings of the Church; and, after some discussion, a committee was ap-

pointed, with instructions to report to a subsequent meeting of this Assembly.

The Assembly then took up the case of the Rev. James Russell, minister of Gairloch, who appealed from a sentence of the Presbytery of Lochcarron, suspending him from the office of the ministry, for alleged contumacy, in not having served discipline on Mr Donald Morison, one of his parishioners, to the full extent prescribed by the rules of the church.

Mr J. W. Dickson stated the case for the appellant. He particularly urged the important defect in the sentence of the Presbytery, that Mr Russell was not cited to, and was not present at, the meeting of the Presbytery, when sentence was awarded, and did not know that any sentence was in contemplation against him; that he had followed out what he conceived, and what any other person, from the minutes of the Presbytery, would have understood to be, the Presbytery's instructions, and besides, he contended, that the sentence was severe beyond all degree, even if it could be held that the appellant had erred.

Mr M'Kenzie, a member of the Presbytery, appeared on behalf of the Presbytery, and in the course of his address to the House, introduced some severe reflections on the conduct of the appellant, not warranted by documents on the Assembly's table; for which he was repeatedly called to order, not only by the appellant's counsel, but by several members of the House.

Mr Jeffrey for the appellant said, if he understood the rules, or could read the countenances of the members of this House, no reply was necessary to the speech of the reverend gentleman (Mr M'Kenzie).

Mr Menzies said, the Presbytery of Lochcarron had lived in the greatest cordiality for a number of years, and

he was certain that both parties now at the bar still entertained feelings of the most kindly nature towards each other. If the proceedings of the Presbytery had been irregular, they had been led into the irregularity by regard for the interests of the Church. The learned gentleman concluded by proposing, that some motion be made, which, while it removed the sentence of suspension against Mr Russell, would absolve the Presbytery from the imputation of being actuated by any improper motive in awarding it.

Dr Cook regretted that any Presbytery of the Church should have appeared before them in the situation in which this Presbytery appeared. He considered that there were cases of this sort in which mercy was better than sacrifice; and that nothing was more dreadful to a minister of the Gospel than suspending him from the ministry. This awful punishment should never be inflicted till the party charged had been repeatedly admonished, and entreated to return to his duty. But here this punishment was inflicted while the party imagined he had performed his duty. It was inflicted in his absence; without his knowledge; without any citation having been given to him to appear before them—nay, when he was languishing upon a bed of sickness, which rendered his appearance impossible. He would not rest satisfied with a mere reversal of the sentence of the Presbytery; he conceived the Presbytery had acted most irregularly and unconstitutionally, and the deliverance of the Assembly should express their disapprobation of such conduct.

Principal Macfarlane agreed entirely with what had fallen from his reverend friend.

Mr Maitland McGill and Mr Duncan of Ruthwell thought, that how-

ever irregular the Presbytery's conduct might have been, that of Mr Russell was not free from blame.

The motion of Principal Macfarlane was then unanimously adopted as the judgment of the House, and was as follows:—

“The General Assembly find that the Presbytery of Lochcarron have acted irregularly and improperly, in suspending and threatening to depose the appellant, on the grounds specified in their minutes, especially when he had not been summoned before them, and no regular process had been instituted against him, and therefore they did, and hereby do sustain the appeal, and reverse the sentence appealed against; and they admonish the Presbytery of Lochcarron to exercise their jurisdiction over their brethren with prudence, forbearance, and brotherly kindness; and they direct the Presbytery to record this judgment in their Presbytery books, and to see that it be recorded in the Session book of the Kirk Session of Gairloch.”

The Assembly then adjourned till eleven o'clock next day.

Tuesday, the Procurator for the Church proceeded to make his report on the state of the funds of the Church, from which it appeared, that the debts due when he last made report, amounted to 1350*l*. By the subscriptions of ministers it was reduced to 1231*l*. 16*s*. 6*d*. By the votes of the House, however, of last year, the Church was pledged for an additional debt of 620*l*. The contribution of the lay members last year amounted to 450*l*. but notwithstanding that large sum, the Church was either indebted or pledged for 1467*l*.

Principal Nisoll said, that the committee in discharge of its duty had found it impossible to recommend that aid should be given in any one case. That was a painful situa-

tion, but ministers had themselves alone to blame.

The Assembly then called for the overture from the Synod of Dumfries, anent clandestine marriages.

Reverend Mr D. Wright appeared in support of the overture. The evil, he said, had long been permitted to exist within the bounds of the Synod of Dumfries. He trusted he would be able to show that no new law on the subject would be requisite. The old ones were quite sufficient, if fully and rigidly exercised. He did not wish it to be understood that they had come to the Assembly without trying what could be effected by regulations; but no regulations nor co-operations on the part of the Presbytery could be effective, unless the conduct and practice of the magistrates were also regulated. The conduct of these functionaries, he trusted he would be able to show, was quite contrary to the statute-law of the land. Besides, while the Justices of the Peace of the border counties did all in their power to discourage the practice, the magistrates of the burghs gave it their support. It was there that the evil was encouraged. He need only refer to what passed at a late circuit, when a learned judge made some very pointed remarks on this painful practice. Instead of those persons taking the observations in good part, they considered them as encroachments on their just rights and privileges. Some of these rights and privileges he would now make the House acquainted with. One there was, to unite parties in a state of bigamy, and it was out of a marriage of that nature that the case came to be tried at the circuit. Another of their rights was, to unite parties while in a state of intoxication, which was the occasion of many rash marriages. In one case, from Dumfries, the Court of Session had passed sen-

tence of divorce, on the ground that the pursuer was drunk when she had come before the magistrate. Another of these privileges was, to reduce the fine to a few merks, or any sum they chose, and not unfrequently to apply them—not to pious purposes, as the statute required, but to furnish the means for a debauch. The act of Charles II. exacted a penalty from a nobleman of 1000 merks for such an offence, and 100 merks was the lowest fine it imposed, besides imprisonment for three months, and transgressors ought now to pay much larger sums. But this statute had become a dead letter. To put an end to such evils, so destructive to the virtue, happiness, and well-being of society, must be the wish of all who valued the interests of piety and morality; and to do so, no new laws were necessary, but only to put in force those already in existence. These magistrates were in general ignorant of the characters or situations of those who came before them, and for aught they knew, might be joining persons already married, or who were within the degrees of consanguinity forbidden by law. He would fain hope the Assembly would devise means to suppress an evil which had been suffered too long to exist; and if they could not get rid of it altogether, it would at least be desirable to reduce it to the smallest quantum possible. It ought not to be permitted to exist, while the remedy only required to be applied. He concluded by moving, that a committee be appointed to consider of the best means of putting down the evil complained of, and to report.

Sir John Connell expressed his hope that the proceedings in this case might be productive of good; and although the laws relative to clandestine marriages had been allowed to fall into disuse, he thought that a re-

commendation from this Assembly to the magistrates of the southern counties, to abstain from such practices, might be sufficient to check the evil complained of.

Mr Sloan of Dornock said, the locality of his parish enabled him to know a good deal about these proceedings. His parish was bounded on the east by Gretna Green, a place well known to ladies and gentlemen, if not by personal acquaintance, at least by fame—(a laugh)—and on the west by Annan, a place no less celebrated for clandestine marriages. These marriages were always hastily entered into, and often hastily repented of. They could not expect the blessing of Heaven who went to the altar with a lie in their right hands. The ladies in the gallery appeared to smile; he assured them he was far from an enemy to marriage. He was indeed a warm advocate for it, and had felt from his own experience that it was not good for man to be alone (laughter.) He looked upon those fair forms as the comfort of man while in health, and in the hour of distress they poured into his mind the balm of consolation (laughter.) He strongly urged the necessity of some measures being taken on this subject.

Mr Dempster of Denny said, that twenty-five years ago, irregular marriages prevailed to a great extent in his quarter; but by a strict ecclesiastical discipline they had got rid of that evil. Their plan was to refuse church privileges to transgressors, and to put them to such a strict catechising, that they at length came to the conclusion that it was far better for them to do right at first, than run the risk of such a vexatious system (a laugh.) The consequence was, that whereas they formerly had from six to eight cases of this kind annually, they now seldom had one.

Principal Macfarlane, Dr Duncan

of Ruthwell, and Mr J. A. Murray, spoke shortly in favour of the committee.

Mr Marshall of Glasgow, and Mr McLeod of Campsie, suggested that the committee should not be confined in their inquiries to the south; the practice existed in many other places.

The Assembly then appointed a committee, with instructions to report if possible on Saturday.

The Assembly then proceeded to hear the overture from the Synod of Fife, on the subject of the poor laws.

Dr Craig Buchanan supported the overture. He concluded by moving the appointment of a committee, to consider of this subject, which was agreed to.

The Assembly next proceeded to consider the petition and appeal of the Rev. Malcolm McLeod, minister of Snizort, against the sentence of the Presbytery of Skye, suspending the Rev. Roderick McLeod, minister of Bracadale, for contumacy.

The appellant appeared for himself, with H. Cockburn, Esq. as his counsel—Mr Souter, along with P. Robertson, Esq. advocate, appeared for the Presbytery.

A preliminary objection was urged against the receiving of a petition from the parishioners of Bracadale. The judgment of Assembly in 1824 was read in reference to the parish of Bracadale, directing that the Presbytery of Skye should take care that the ordinance of baptism be duly performed in that parish. The minutes of Presbytery were next read, detailing the various proceedings which had taken place in consequence of this judgment, from which it appeared that the Presbytery got from Mr McLeod a statement that there were 47 children under three years of age, unbaptized in the parish, and that for the two years and a half that he had

been incumbent, he had only baptized seven. The Presbytery then resolved on a Presbyterial visitation, when the elders and heads of families were called before them. At a forenoon meeting of Presbytery, four persons having children to be baptized were examined—three of whom were found entitled to have the ordinance administered, and one unfit. Two of these persons had their children instantly baptized; but one man's (R. Shaw) child, Mr M'Leod positively refused to baptize, because Shaw had been impertinent, and also because he was not a regular attender of the ordinances of religion. In this refusal the Presbytery acquiesced for the time. At the Presbyterial examination, Mr M'Leod still refused to baptise Shaw's child; in consequence of which refusal, the Presbytery suspended Mr M'Leod, until he should agree to baptize the child; but the moderator was authorized, should Mr M'Leod comply, to call a *pro re nata* meeting, and remove this sentence of suspension. Against this sentence Mr M'Leod of Snlzort dissented, and appealed.

Mr Cockburn appeared in behalf of the appellant, who was not minister of the parish of Bracadale, but his father. This question depended upon the light in which it might be viewed by different parties. One man might administer the ordinance of baptism one way, while another, equally conscientious, would do it in another way. In regard to what had occurred in the Assembly in 1824, all that was then enacted was, that a particular child should be baptized, and that the Presbytery of Skye should take care that the ordinance of baptism should be duly administered in the parish of Bracadale. He then proceeded to remark on the different proceedings of the Presbytery till the time of passing sentence of

suspension, contending that they ought to have accused Mr M'Leod, and served him with a libel, containing specific charges. But instead of that, without libel, without proof, and in his absence, they suspended him at once.

The reverend Mr Souter proceeded to mention the different steps taken by the Presbytery to carry into effect the sentence of the Assembly. He gave an account of the visitation, and regretted that the petition of the parishioners had not been read. The Presbytery were anxious that Mr M'Leod should be restored to his parish when that could be done consistently with the due administration of the law—the privileges of the parishioners, and the constitution of the Church.

Mr P. Robertson argued that the conduct of the Presbytery had been in strict conformity to the laws of the Church.

Dr M'Gill would caution the Assembly not hastily to come to a conclusion on this subject; and certainly it would be rash to judge of the conduct of a minister who had refused to baptize a child, without weighing well all the motives on which his refusal might be grounded. And he would ask of the Presbytery of Skye, if they acted towards their brother with that degree of Christian charity which it became them to follow towards each other?

Dr Cook went over the case at considerable length, and, in conclusion, was for affirming the sentence of the Presbytery of Skye.

Mr Robert Thomson, advocate, at great length contended that the Presbytery had acted improperly and most precipitately.

Dr Nicoll said that this case, while of the greatest importance, was one of the most simple in its nature. There was one thing on which he

thought all were agreed—that ministers, on their admission to the church, subscribed the formula, declaring that they would submit and be in subordination to its courts. If that subordination was not adhered to, every minister might set up an independent congregation of his own. After some farther remarks, approving of the conduct of the Presbytery, Principal Nicoll concluded by moving in effect, that the sentence appealed from should be affirmed.

This was seconded by the Rev. Mr M'Kenzie.

Dr M'Gill, in substance, moved, that the sentence of the Presbytery of Skye should be reversed, which motion was seconded by Mr R. Thomson, advocate.

Mr W. Bell, W.S., Mr James Bridges, Mr Carment, and Mr Marshall of Glasgow, supported the motion of Dr M'Gill.

Mr Robertson of Forteviot and Principal Macfarlane enforced the arguments of Principal Nicoll.

The votes being now loudly called for, the House divided, when there appeared for Principal Nicoll's motion, 108; for Dr M'Gill's, 73; majority, 35.

The House then adjourned to Wednesday at 11 o'clock.

On Wednesday, the question of Pluralities was again brought forward, by Mr Marshall of Glasgow submitting the following motion, which he prefaced by a long and eloquent speech:

“That the General Assembly, having considered the overtures relative to the union of the office of a parochial minister with that of principal or professor in any of the Universities of Scotland, and being deeply convinced that such unions are injurious to the interests of religion, education, and learning, and contrary to the spirit of our ecclesiastical consti-

tution, resolve, That a committee be appointed to prepare an overture to be transmitted to the Presbyteries of this church, for preventing such unions of these offices in future, in all cases not already provided for by the act of Assembly 1817, and to report to this Assembly: And farther, in respect that some of the theological professorships are not at present sufficiently provided for, the General Assembly resolve to appoint a committee to take all such cases into consideration, with instructions to make all necessary inquiries, and to adopt all measures that may be deemed expedient, with the view of obtaining some means or security for the adequate endowment of these offices, and to report to next Assembly.”

The following amendment was moved by Dr Nicoll:—

“That the General Assembly, having maturely deliberated on the subject of these overtures, judge it inexpedient to transmit any overture upon the subject to the several presbyteries of this church.”

Dr Cook submitted the following amendment:—

“The General Assembly, having considered the overtures on the table, find that it is not expedient, under existing circumstances, to transmit to Presbyteries an overture for abolishing the union of offices in Universities with parochial charges, where the law of residence is not violated; but appoint a committee to inquire and ascertain whether adequate endowments for theological professorships could be obtained, and what effect the universal abolition of pluralities would produce on the connexion between the Church and the Universities of Scotland.”

We deem it unnecessary to report the arguments of the different speakers on this question, in which there was little originality, they being sub-

stantially the same as those which were urged in the previous Assembly, when the same question was discussed. The motion was supported by Dr McGill, Mr Carment, Dr Chalmers, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and Mr James Moncreiff, and opposed by Mr Douglas Cheape, the

Lord President of the Court of Session, Mr Ramsay of Ormiston, and Dr Ferrie of Kilconquhar. Only the motion and Dr Nicoll's amendment were put to the vote ; and on calling the roll, there appeared, for the motion, 105—for the amendment, 170—majority, 65.

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29. At 16, Dublin Street, Mrs Burnet, of a son.

30. At Dumbarnie House, Mrs Craigie of Dumbarnie, of a son.

31. At Sunnyside, near Montrose, the lady of Captain Hunter, of a son.

— At Raeburn Place, Mrs M'Bean, of a son.

Lately, At Dryburgh, Berwickshire, the wife of George Pringle presented him with his ninth and tenth sons, two healthy and fine children. They never had any daughters.

JUNE 1. At Whitehill, the Hon. Mrs Wardlaw, of a son.

2. Mrs Alexander Douglas, Albany Street, of a daughter.

— At Allanton, the lady of George Whigham, Esq. of Halliday Hill, of a daughter.

2. At Ardtorinich, Mrs Grigorson, of a daughter.

3. At Possil, Mrs Colin Campbell, of a son.

4. At Northend House, the lady of Captain G. Henderson, R. N. of a son.

— Mrs J. Johnstone, junior, 25, Royal Circus, of a daughter.

— At 3, Drummond Place, Mrs Arthur Campbell, of a daughter.

6. At Kingston, Jamaica, the lady of Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh H. Rose, of the Portuguese service, of a daughter.

— At Llannelly, Wales, Mrs David Ar. Davies, of a daughter.

7. At Glenburnhall, Mrs Orraiston, of a son and heir.

8. At Woodville, Canaan, Mrs James Wilson, of a son.

9. At Southfield, near Stirling, Mrs Captain Forrester of Craiganmet, of a son.

10. At 1, Bellevue Crescent, Mrs Robert Paterson, of a son and daughter.

— At the Government House, Jersey, the lady of his Excellency Major-General Sir Colin Halkett, K. C. B. and G. C. H. of a son.

— At Bogota, the lady of James Henderson, Esq. his Majesty's Consul-General for Colombia, of a daughter.

11. At Meggerney Castle, the lady of Stewart Menzies, Esq. of Culdares, of a son.

13. At North Berwick Lodge, the lady of Major-General Dalrymple, of a daughter.

16. At 23, Pilrig Street, Mrs Balfour, of a son.

19. At Munro Place, near Portobello, Mrs Kirk, of a daughter.

— At 22, George Street, Mrs Dr Mac-lugan, of a son.

— In St James's Square, London, the Duchess of Bedford, of a daughter.

20. At the Manse of North Berwick, Mrs Balfour Graham, of a daughter.

— Mrs Milner of Nunmonkton, near New York, of a son.

21. At Newmanswalls, the Right Hon. Lady Anne Cruickshank, of a son.

22. At Canaan, the lady of Captain Gossip, 3d Guards, of a daughter.

— At 7, Melville Street, Mrs David Campbell, of a daughter.

25. In Bolton Street, London, the lady

of Major Moody, Royal Engineers, of a son.

— At Dupplin Castle, the Countess of Kinnoul, of a daughter, still-born.

— At Rushlaw-house, the lady of John Buchan Sydserf, Esq. of Rushlaw, of a son.

27. Mrs Peddie, 10, Nelson Street, of a daughter.

— At Kinloss Manse, Mrs Robertson, of a daughter.

— At Stromness, the lady of Hector Munro, Esq. of a daughter.

— At Malta, the lady of Major Grey, 2d battalion, rifle brigade, of a daughter.

29. Mrs Irving, Meadow Place, of a daughter.

30. At Viewforth, Mrs G. Crichton, of a daughter.

— At Kirkaldy, Mrs Lundin Cooper, of a daughter.

Lately, Mrs A. Finlay, at 62, Castle Street, of a son.

JULY 1. At Brighton Place, Portobello, Mrs Glen, of a daughter.

— At Woodhill Bank, Mrs J. A. Stuart, of a daughter.

5. At 60, George Street, Mrs Pursell, of a daughter.

7. At Broughton Place, Mrs Ronald, of a daughter.

— At 16, Nicolson Street, Mrs Huie, of a daughter.

8. Mrs Terrot, Northumberland Street, of a son.

9. At Baberton House, the lady of Archibald Christie, Esq. of Baberton, of a son.

10. At 3, Circus Place, Mrs Finlay, of a daughter.

12. At the rectory, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, the lady of the Rev. William Riland Bedford, of a son.

13. At Athlone, the lady of Major Turner, royal horse artillery, of a son.

— Mrs Clerk Ratray, of a daughter.

— At Port Henderson, Jamaica, the lady of John Percy Henderson of Fowell Bank, Esq. Perthshire, of a daughter.

14. At 17, St Patrick's Square, the lady of Captain Smith of the 37th Regiment, of a son.

— Mrs. Robert Dempster, of a son.

— At Montague Place, Blackwall, the lady of Captain Bain, of the City of Edinburgh steam-packet, of a son.

14. At 40, Great King Street, Mrs Campbell of Ashemill, of a daughter.

16. At Erskine, the Right Hon. lady Blantyre, of a son.

— At Great King Street, the lady of Lieutenant-Colonel Macgregor, 93d regt. of a son.

— At Dryden House, the lady of Geo. Mercer, Esq. of Gorthy and Dryden, of a son.

— At Dalkeith, Mrs James Bowes, of a son.

18. At Great King Street, the lady of W. H. Dowbiggen, Esq. of a son.

— At 1, Fludyer Street, Westminster, the lady of Henry Hyndmann, Esq. of a son.

— At Stirling Castle, Mrs Whitehead, of a son.

— At Brechin, Mrs David Dakers Black, of a daughter.

— At Lochnaſ Castle, the lady of Sir Andrew Agnew, Bart. of a daughter.

20. The lady of Lieutenant W. Sheaffe, 50th regiment, S. O. of a daughter.

— At Archibald Place, Mrs George Brown, of a daughter.

21. At Edinburgh, the lady of Hugh Maclean, Esq. younger of Coll, of a daughter.

23. At Stead Place, Leith Walk, Mrs Paterson, of a son.

26. At Berwick-upon-Tweed, Mrs Dr Johnston, of a daughter.

27. Mrs Bowie, 5, Albyn Place, of a daughter.

30. At Hart Street, the lady of Robert Gordon, Esq. of a son.

31. Mrs Pender, 33, Buccleuch Place, of a son.

AUGUST 1. At Polkemmet, the lady of Sir William Baillie, Bart. of a daughter.

3. Mrs Robertson, 16, Moray Place, of a son.

— At Ely, the lady of Dr William Gourlay of Kincraig, of a daughter.

— At Holderness House, Park Lane, London, the Marchioness of Londonderry, of a daughter.

— At Cornhill, Aberdeenshire, the lady of David Young, Esq. of a son.

6. At Scarborough, the lady of John Sandwith, Esq. of a daughter.

— The lady of Charles Kinnear, Esq. Kinnear, of a son.

7. At Woodhall Park, Herts, the Ho-

nourable Mrs Alexander Leslie Melville, of a daughter.

8. At Greenock, Mrs Wm. Snell, of a daughter.

12. In Castle Street, Mrs Shortt, of a son.

14. At Castleton, Isle of Man, the lady of Robert Cunningham, Esq. of a son.

15. Mrs Tod, Charlotte Square, of a daughter.

17. At Springhall, the lady of W. Forlong, jun. Esq. of a daughter.

18. At 12, Howard Place, Mrs Rennie, of a daughter.

— At Xeres de la Frontera, in Spain, the lady of Gideon Cranstoun, Esq. of a son.

21. At Edinburgh, Mrs Dundas of Arniston, of a son.

— At 23, Albany Street, Mrs Napier, of a daughter.

— At the house of her father, W. Egerton Jeffreys, Esq. Cotton Hill, Salop, the lady of Richard Smith, Esq. of the Mount, Liverpool, of a daughter.

22. At No. 3, Royal Circus, Mrs Walter Dickson, of a son.

23. At Burntsfield Links, Mrs G. Logan, of a son.

— At Bendrum, Fife, the lady of Captain Durie, of a son.

25. At Inch House, Mrs Gordon of Hallhead, of a daughter.

26. At Borough-house, Kentish Town, the lady of James Wilson, Esq. advocate, and of Lincoln's Inn, of a daughter.

28. At Burntsfield Place, Mrs John Anderson, of a daughter.

— At the Relief Manse, Kelso, Mrs Pitcairn, of a son.

29. At Leith, Mrs Gordon Bell, of a daughter.

— At Aberdeen, the lady of the Hon. W. Forbes, of Brux, of a son.

— At 105, George Street, Mrs John Ronaldson, of a daughter.

31. At Edinburgh, the lady of Major Menzies, 42d regiment, of a daughter.

SEPTEMBER 4. At London, the lady of D. Charles Guthrie, Esq. of a son.

— At Ardwell House, the lady of John Birtwhistle, Esq. of Barharrow, of a son.

5. At 57, Frederick Street, Mrs Keith, of a still-born son.

— At Bath, the lady of Dr Bowie, of a daughter.

6. At Edinburgh, Mrs John Cockburn, of a son.

— At Hartwood Lodge, Mrs Mowbray, of a daughter.

7. At Yarmouth, the lady of George Hill, Esq. London, of a son.

10. At Edinburgh, Mrs Robert Sangster, R. N. of a daughter.

12. At Brussels, the lady of Captain James Hay of Belton, Royal Navy, of a son.

13. Mrs Patrick Robertson, Great King Street, of a daughter.

16. At Lauriston House, Mrs Auld, of a son.

17. At Anniston House, county of Angus, the Right Hon. lady Eliz. Thackeray, of a daughter.

18. At No. 23, Royal Circus, the lady of James Walker, Esq. Advocate, of a daughter.

— The wife of Mr W. Bailey, 17, St John Street, of a daughter.

20. At Old Melrose, Mrs Douglas of Adderston, of a daughter.

— At 36, Drummond Place, Mrs Han-
nay, of a son.

21. At Beech Hill, the lady of James Gammell, Esq. of a son and heir.

22. At Arndilly, the Hon. Mrs Mac-
dowall Grant, of a daughter.

23. At Pwllerochan, North Wales, the lady of Sir David Erskine, Bart. of a daughter.

24. At Balgarvie, the lady of Lieut-
Colonel Webster, of a son.

25. Mrs T. Weir, Nelson Street, of a son.

— Mrs R. Scott Moncrieff, 31, Howe Street, of a son.

26. At Arniston Place, Newington, Mrs Peter Forbes, of a son.

— At Shrub Place, Mrs Snody, of a son and daughter.

27. At Woodend Cottage, Fifeshire, Mrs Fulton, of a daughter.

— Mrs William Nicholson, 29, Castle Street, of a daughter.

— At Irvine, the lady of S. M. Fullerton of Fullerton, Esq. of a daughter.

30. At Shaws of Closeburn, Mrs Douglas, of three daughters.

OCTOBER 1. At 17, Melville Street, the lady of the Rev. John Sandford, of a son.

2. At St Clement's Wells, Mrs James Aitchison, of a daughter.

— At Hendon House, near Sunderland, the Hon. Mrs Cochrane, of a son.

— The lady of Lieut.-Colonel Marshall, Military Secretary at Gibraltar, of a son.

3. At Cuttlehill, Mrs Dewar, of a son.

6. At Kilrenny Manse, Mrs Brown, of a daughter.

— At St Mary Cray, Kent, the lady of Joseph Hume, M. P. of a son.

7. At Pisa, the lady of Alexander Anderson, Esq. of Kingask, of a son.

— At Eaglescarnie, the lady of Major-General the Hon. P. Stuart, of a son.

9. At Inchinnan Manse, the lady of the Rev. Laurence Lockhart, of a son.

11. At Govan Manse, Mrs Leishman, of a daughter.

— At Dumfries, the lady of Lieut.-Colonel Grierson, of a son.

— At Kirkmay House, the lady of Robert Inglis, Esq. of Kirkmay, of a son.

12. At 45, Queen Street, the lady of Lieut. Francis Grove, R. N. of a son.

— At Aberdeen, the lady of Lieut.-Colonel Clerk, of a son.

— At Bounds Park, Kent, Lady Isabella Cust, sister of the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, of a son.

— At Fasque, lady Ramsay, of a son.

— At Dalkeith, Mrs Steel, of a daughter.

— At No. 8, Great King Street, Mrs Lumsden, of a daughter.

16. At George Square, the lady of Patrick Dudgeon, Esq. of East Craig, of a son.

18. At 66, Queen Street, Mrs William Blackett, of a son.

20. At Gogar House, the lady of Alexander Gibson Maitland, younger of Cliftonhall, Esq. of a son.

— At Logie Green, Mrs G. Yule, of a daughter.

— Mrs P. Hill, jun. 8, Pitt Street, of a daughter.

— At 9, Newington Place, Mrs H. Pilans, of a daughter.

21. At Moray Place, Mrs John Larmouth, of a son.

22. At 79, Prince's Street, Mrs R. Adam, of a son.

22. Mrs Dickie, 12, Hailes Street, of a son.

— At Friendship Park Villa, in Ligonania, St Andrews, Island of Jamaica, the lady of Alexander Aikman, jun. Esq. printer to his Majesty, and to the house of Assembly, of a son.

24. Mrs Carlyle Bell, 7, Royal Circus, of a daughter.

— At Warriston Crescent, Mrs Francis Bridges, of a daughter.

— At Craigsides, Mrs R. Alexander, of a daughter.

25. At Dundee, the lady of Lieut.-Colonel William Chalmers, of Glenelicht, of a son.

26. At Edinburgh, the lady of Robert Eckford, Esq. of a son.

28. At Tinnis, the lady of Robert Balcantyne, Esq. of a daughter.

29. At Pittancrieff, the lady of James Hunt, Esq. of a son.

Lately, At Florence, Mrs Bradshaw, (late Miss M. Tree,) of a daughter.

— At 7, Howe Street, Mrs Alexander, of a son.

NOVEMBER 1. Mrs Dr Pitcairn, of a daughter.

3. At Loch Vale, near Dumfries, the lady of Eaglesfield Smith, Esq. of a son.

8. At Strathairly Cottage, the lady of Major Briggs, of a son.

9. At Ruchil, the lady of William R. Robinson, of Clermiston, Esq. of a daughter.

13. At Melville Street, Mrs J. A. Duff, of a son.

14. At 28, Gayfield Square, Mrs Dr Ross, of a daughter.

— At Roehampton, Lady Gifford, of a son.

— At Kensington, the lady of W. S. Morson, M. D. of a daughter.

15. At Bonnington Brae, Mrs Wm. Haigs, of a son, which only survived a few minutes.

16. At Castle Street, Mrs Alexander Robertson, of a daughter.

17. At Bath, the lady of Robert Buchanan, Esq. younger of Drumpellier, of a son.

19. At 18, Albany Street, Mrs Begbie, of a son.

— At Geneva, the Hon. Mrs Fairholme, of a daughter.

20. At Dingwall, the lady of Captain

Myrne, of the 11th Regiment of Light Dragoons, of a son.

22. At 17, Heriot Row, Mrs Donald Horne, of a daughter.

— At Edinburgh, Mrs Wylie, 41, Castle Street, of a son.

— Mrs Douglas, No. 15, Great King Street, of a daughter.

25. At 18, Abercromby Place, Mrs Hunter, of a son.

27. Mrs George Hill, 8, St Andrew's Square, of a daughter.

28. At 17, Great King Street, the lady of James Cathcart, Esq. of a son.

29. At Weens, Roxburghshire, the lady of George Cleghorn, Esq. of a daughter.

DECEMBER 2. At Stonehouse, Cumberland, the lady of Lieut.-Colonel Sir H. D. Ross, K. C. B. of a son.

3. At Sunnysbank, the lady of Lieut. Colonel D. Forbes, of a daughter.

— At New Hall, the lady of John Buckle, Esq. of a son.

4. The lady of Robert Warden, Esq. of Parkhill, of a son.

— Mrs Kidd, Merchant Street, of a son.

5. At the Waterloo Hotel, the Marchioness Riario Sforza, of a daughter.

6. The lady of Peter Campbell, Esq. Northumberland Street, of a son.

9. Mrs Waugh, Northumberland Street, of a daughter.

— Mrs Hamilton, Blythwood Hill, West, of a daughter.

10. At Moncreiffe House, the Lady Moncreiffe, of a daughter.

15. At Newton Lodge, the lady of Gilbert Young, Esq. of Youngfield, of a son.

16. In Bryanston Square, London, lady Elizabeth Drummond, of a daughter.

— At North Cliff, Mrs M'Konochie, of a son.

— At Wormiston, Fifeshire, Mrs Lindesay, of a son.

17. At Fyfe Place, Leith Walk, Mrs Alex. Douglas, of a daughter.

— At Corfu, the lady of Lieut. C. W. Sievwright, H. M. 7th (Royal Fusiliers), of a son.

18. At 2, Shandwick Place, Mrs Anderson, of a son.

19. Mrs Alex. Deuchar, Windmill Street, of a daughter.

19. In Great Cumberland Street, London, the lady of Admiral Sir Richard King, Bart. of a son.

20. At No. 27, Windsor Street, Mrs Thomas Graham, of a son.

— At London, the lady of Commissary-General Dunmore, of a daughter.

— At Aldborough, Suffolk, the lady of Lieut. Nunn, Staff Adjutant at Edinburgh, of a son, still-born.

23. At Queen Street, Mrs Blackburn of Kille , of a daughter.

— M Ivory, Dundas Street, of a son.

— Lady Dunbar of Boath, of a son.

25. At Warriston Crescent, Mrs Carmichael, of a daughter.

26. At the house of her father, in Alloa, Mrs Robert Haig, Dollar, of a daughter.

— Mrs Young, 33, London Street, of a son, still-born.

— At Lauriston Place, Mrs Chalmers, of a daughter.

27. At Wharton Place, the lady of Dr Greville, of a daughter.

— At Barcaldine, the lady of Duncan Campbell, Esq. of Barcaldine, of a daughter.

— At Bonhard House, Linlithgow, Mrs William Napier, of a son.

29. At Orchardfield, Stirlingshire, Mrs Walker, of a son.

— The Countess of Leven and Melville, of a daughter.

29. At 58, Queen Street, Mrs Robertson, of a son.

— At Buccleuch Place, the lady of John Paterson, Esq. of Merryflats, of a son.

30. At Glasgow, the lady of Michael Tweedie, Esq. Royal Artillery, of a son.

— At Woodcot, the lady of William Ogilvie, Esq. younger of Chesters, of a son.

31. At London Street, Mrs Livingstone, Cambusnethan, of a son.

— At Circus Place, Mrs Gay, of a daughter.

Lately, At No. 4, Hermitage Place, Mrs M'Kean, of a daughter.

— At Chester, the lady of the Hon. Major Napier, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES. .

JANUARY 3. David Dickson, Esq., younger of Hartree, advocate, to Jemima, daughter of the late Rev. David Pyper, minister of Pencaitland. .

4. At St James's Church, London, Colonel Sir Robert Arbuthnot, K. C. B. of the Coldstream guards, to Harriet, third daughter and co-heiress of the late Thomas Smith, Esq. of Castleton Hall, Rochdale, Lancashire. .

— At Glasgow, David Smith, Esq. merchant there, to Margaret, youngest daughter of the late David Wardrop, surgeon, R. N.

5. At Edinburgh, Mr George Hill, solicitor, St Andrew's Square, to Catharine, daughter of Mr John Burke, St Andrew's Square.

— At Ekolsund, in Sweden, Baron Charles Gustavus Adlercreutz, Lieutenant in the royal horse guards, son of the late General Count Adlercreutz, to Margaret Seton, second daughter of Dr Seton, of Preston.

6. At Edinburgh, Mr Henry Sharp, of Leeds, to Miss Elizabeth Wight, of West Saltoun, East Lothian.

9. At Kilmarnock, Matthew Brown, Esq. to Miss Thomson, only daughter of Robert Thomson, sen. Esq. manufacturer there.

— At Plantation Palmyra, East Coast, Berbice, by the Rev. A. Browne, A. M. senior minister of the Established Church of Scotland, in the united colony of Demerara and Essequibo, Wolfert Katz, Esq. to Miss Susan Barclay, eldest daughter of the Hon. Simon Fraser, Member of the Council of government of Berbice; and at the same time and place, Charles Mackenzie Matheson, Esq. to Miss Margaret Nicolson, second daughter of the Hon. Simon Fraser.

10. At Kent, Mr Thomas Leverton Donaldson, eldest son of James Donaldson of Williamshaw, Ayrshire, Esq. to Matilda Georgiani, second daughter of Thos. Lingham, Esq. Shooter's Hill, Kent.

— At Edinburgh, David L. Jolly, Esq. to Elizabeth, daughter of the deceased Wm. Richardson, Esq. late of Keithock.

— At Peebles, James Spittal, Esq.

merchant, Edinburgh, to Mary Wightman, eldest daughter of James Ker, Esq. Provost of Peebles.

10. At Cockburn, Mr Thomas Weatherly Haprig, to Margaret, eldest daughter of George Logan, Esq. of Cockburn.

— At St Andrew's, Holborn, London, George Fraser, Esq. Lieutenant, R. N. youngest son of the late Major-General John Henry Fraser, of Ashling House, near Chichester, to Emmeline, eldest daughter of Mr Bedford, of Bedford Row, London.

11. The Earl of Clarke to the Honourable Miss Burrell, daughter of Lord and Lady Gwydir.

12. At Cuttlehill, James Dewar, Esq. of the Middle Temple, to Clementina, daughter of the late Wm. Wemyss, Esq. of Cuttlehill.

— At Elgin, John Lawson, jun. Esq. banker there, to Margaret Helen, eldest daughter of the Rev. Alexander Walker, one of the ministers of Elgin.

13. At Prestonpans, Mr Henry Paxton, wholesale merchant, Edinburgh, to Marion, daughter of Robert Laidlaw, Esq. Prestonpans.

— At Leith, Mr Samuel Beveridge, solicitor, to Margaret, second daughter of Mr John McLean, Leith.

14. At Leith, John Taylor, Esq. surgeon, Stonehaven, to Charles, daughter of the late Charles Abercrombie, Esq. of Belfield.

16. At Falkirk, Captain Thomas Cglender, to Mary, youngest daughter of the late James Russell, Esq. of Blackburns.

17. At Couston Hill, Mr Andrew Hamilton, manufacturer, Glasgow, to Isabella, only daughter of Andrew Blackburn, Esq. of Couston Hill.

— At Alderston, Major Norman Pringle, youngest son of the late Sir James Pringle of Sticheil, Bart. to Anne, eldest daughter of Robert Stewart, Esq. of Alderston.

18. At Edinburgh, the Rev. Archibald Livingston, minister of Cambusnethan, to Jessie, youngest daughter of the late Alex. Shirreff, Esq. Leith.

23. At Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Graham, surgeon, Polmont Cottage, near

Falkirk, to Jane, youngest daughter of the late Ralph Thomson, Esq. Berwick-upon-Tweed.

27. At Laurieston Place, Dr David Chalmers, physician in Edinburgh, to Miss Barbara Bell, daughter of the late Thomas Bell, Esq. of Nether Horsburgh.

31. Mr John Campbell, of Pictou, Nova Scotia, to Miss Marion Campbell, third daughter of the late Malcolm Campbell, Esq. of Cornaig, island of Coll.

— At Perth, Lieutenant Rodney Mylius, Ceylon rifle regiment, to Jane Anne, eldest daughter of the late Captain James Menzies, Royal Perthshire militia.

— John Frame, Esq. of Locher Bank, to Miss Findlay, daughter of John Findlay, Esq. of Gryfe Bank, in the parish of Kilbarchan.

— At Inverness, John Fraser, Esq. Croyard, to Eliza, eldest surviving daughter of the late John Rose, Esq. of Ardnagrask.

— At St Enoch Square, Glasgow, John Scott, Esq. younger of Hawkhill, to Jane, eldest daughter of Andrew Thomson, Esq. merchant, Glasgow.

FEBRUARY 1. At Glasgow, Mr William Napier, Linlithgow, to Mary Anne, daughter of the late Hugh Kennedy, Esq. Usher's Island, Dublin.

• 2. At No. 23, Moray Place, Edinburgh, James Fotheringham, Esq. to Marion, only daughter of the late Patrick Scrymgeour, Esq. of Tealing.

• — At the Manse of Tain, John Dallas, Esq. of Carriacou, to Miss Eliza Baillie, eldest daughter of the Rev. Dr Mackintosh of Tain.

6. At Edinburgh, Mr Alex. Douglas, merchant, to Helen Robertson, daughter of Henry Marder, Esq.

7. At Oakshaw House, Paisley, Thomas Dykes, Esq. of Calcutta, to Marion, daughter of Thomas Leishman, Esq. of Oakshaw.

— At Chelsea, Mr A. Miller, of London, to Margaret, youngest daughter of the late William Wardrop, Esq. Secretary to the Bank of Scotland.

• 8. At Inverness, Colin Munro, Esq. Dingwall, to Alice, eldest surviving daughter of the late Colin Munro, Esq. of Grenada.

— At Corry, Captain D. Macdonald

h. p. 42d regiment, to Margaret, fourth daughter of L. Mackinnon, Esq.

8. By the Rev. Henry Grey, at Coalston, Gilbert Young, Esq. of Youngfield, to Patricia, eldest daughter of the Honourable Wm. Maule, of Panmure, M. P.

9. At Edgerston, Roxburghshire, the Rev. James Wight, to Miss Mary Leslie, Jedburgh.

10. At 14, St Patrick-Square, Edinburgh, Mr James Robertson, merchant, Leith Walk, to Lillias, only child of the late John MacEwan, Esq. Crieff.

— At Edinburgh, Charles Campbell Stewart, Esq. clerk to the signet, to Mary Henrietta, daughter of the late Andrew Wood, Esq. surgeon, Edinburgh.

— At Hayes, Kent, Lord Dunalley, to the Honourable Henrietta Maude, youngest sister of Viscount Hawarden.

— At Newington, James Hathorn, Esq. S. S. C. St Patrick's Square, Edinburgh, to lady C. Fairlie, daughter of the late Sir James Campbell, Bart. of Aberuchil.

— At Adam Square, Edinburgh, Andrew Kedsle, Esq. surgeon in the Honourable East-India Company's service, to Margaret, eldest daughter of the late Andrew Fyfe, Esq. Lecturer on Anatomy, Edinburgh.

13. At Dumfries, Captain Henderson, of the Honourable East India Company Madras military service, to Isabella Grierson, third daughter of Mr Grierson, Shillahill, parish of Drysdale.

— Mr George Mortimer, musical instrument maker, Edinburgh, to Agnes Thorburn, daughter of James Creighton, Esq. Dumfries.

14. At Montrose, David Niddrie, Esq. surgeon there, to Miss Isabella Croll.

— At Alloa, Robert Haig, Esq. of Dollarfield, to Janet, eldest daughter of John M'Gowan, Esq.

15. At St Phillip's Church, Liverpool, the Rev. David Thom, Liverpool, to Margaret, third daughter of Mr Steel, Waltensholm Square.

— At Elie, Mr Andrew Thallon, merchant, Kirkaldy, to Miss Bethia, youngest daughter of Mr Lawrence Kilgour, King's Kettle, Fife.

16. At Mayfield, William Hope Mure, Esq. surgeon, to Jane Gordon, second

daughter of the late James Robertson, of Mayfield, Esq. W.S.

16. At Bair Vadock, Dumbartonshire, William Tritton, Esq. only son of George Tritton, Esq. West Hill, Surrey, to Jane Dennistoun, second daughter of James Buchanan, Esq. of Ardenconnel, granddaughter of the late, and niece to the present, Earl of Caithness.

— At Abercromby Place, Edinburgh, by the Rev. Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, Bart. the Rev. James Henderson, of Claremont-Street Chapel, to Eleanor Rutherford, third daughter of Professor Russell.

— At Lambourn Church, Berkshire, Mr Wm. Morrison, of Fenchurch Street, London, to Annie, eldest daughter of Mr Thomas Wright, Banff.

— At Samuelston Mains, Mr John Kesson, surgeon, North Berwick, to Thoma, only daughter of the late Mr Thos. Watson, farmer there.

— At Elerig, Appin, Argyllshire, Geo. Ferguson, Esq. quartermaster of the 91st regiment, to Isabella, eldest daughter of Mr Duncan Sinclair, residing there.

— At 10, Albyn Place, Alexander Pearson, Esq. W.S. to Catherine, daughter of the late David Paterson, Esq. banker in Edinburgh.

18. At St George's Church, Bloomsbury, London, by the Rev. T. Curtis, Michael Tweedie, Esq. royal artillery, to Miss Forbes, daughter of Richard Walter Forbes, Esq. Rolvenden, Kent.

20. At Dumfries, John Erskine Gibson, Esq. surgeon, to Sarah M'Kenzie, eldest daughter of Adam Rankine, Esq. merchant there.

21. At Plantation William, Demerara, James Allan, Esq. to Jane, second daughter of Mr John Ord, Redhall, Morayshire.

— At Glasgow, Gilbert Stuart Bruce, of Trinity Square, London, Esq. to Christina, youngest daughter of William Shortridge, of Glasgow, Esq.

— At Glasgow, Mr Andrew Galbraith, merchant, to Miss Margaret Bogle, daughter of the late William Scott, Esq. Port Glasgow.

22. At Clifton, Sir William Francis Elliott, of Stobbs and Wells, in the county of Roxburgh, Bart. to Miss Boswell,

eldest daughter of the late Sir Alexander Boswell, of Auchinleck, Bart.

22. At Glasgow, Charles Shirreff, Esq. to Christian, eldest daughter of James M'Nair, Esq.

23. At Aberdeen, Andrew Richardson, Esq. manufacturer, Edinburgh, to Frances Ann, second daughter of the late Rev. William Duncan, of the grammar-school of Aberdeen.

— At the hotel of the British Embassy, Paris, Robert Shëddon Scrimgeour, Esq. to Margaret, eldest daughter of the late James Wilson, Professor of Anatomy to the Royal College of Surgeons, London.

— At Talisker, Isle of Skye, John Tolmie, Esq. Uginish, to Margaret, fourth daughter of the late Dr J. M'Askill.

— At Strichen, the Rev. James Anderson, minister of St Fergus, to Margaret, eldest daughter of Alexander Gavin, Esq. surgeon, Strichen.

— By special license, at the residence of the Earl of Harrington, in the Stable Yard, St James's, Lord Southampton, to Miss Stanhope, daughter of the Honourable Colonel Stanhope.

24. Robert Fairbairn, Esq. writer in Dunse, to Jean, eldest daughter of John Kay, Esq.

25. At Borlum, William Fraser, Esq. Dell, to Mary, eldest daughter of William Fraser, Esq. Borlum.

27. At Quidenham, the seat of the Earl of Albemarle, Henry Frederick Stephenson, Esq. of the Middle Temple, barrister at law, to Lady Mary Keppel, second surviving daughter of the Earl of Albemarle.

28. At Leith, William Wardlaw, Esq. to Mary Ann, only daughter of Robert Douglas, of Preston, Esq.

— At Ayr, John Boyle, Esq. of Robsland, to Miss Mary, youngest daughter of the late Mr James Goudie, ship-builder, Ayr.

— At Raeburn Place, the Rev. Robert Carr, minister of Luss, to Georgina, daughter of the late Thomas Henderson, Esq. chamberlain of the city of Edinburgh.

— At St Andrew's Chapel, Aberdeen, Alexander M'Neil, Esq. advocate, to

Anna Margaret, second daughter of the late Keith Turner, Esq. of Turnerhall.

28. At Mollance, Alexander B. Blackie, Esq. wine-merchant, Leith, to Isabella, eldest daughter of John Napier, Esq. of Mollance.

Lately, In the parish church of Temple Mighry, county Tyrone, James Cross, Esq. 2d royal veteran battalion, youngest son of James Cross, Esq. Gorbals, Glasgow, to Eliza, daughter of Captain Hartridge, of the Donegal regiment.

MARCH 1. At Malta, T. Akers Shone, Esq. of the royal artillery, to Margaret Ankerville, eldest daughter of the late General Ross, and grand-daughter of Lord Ankerville, one of the Lords of Session in Scotland.

— At the Royal Lodge, Windsor, the Right Honourable Lord Strathaven, M.P. to Lady Elizabeth Conyngham, eldest daughter of the Marquis of Conyngham.

— At Knock, in Skye, the Rev. John Macrae, minister of Glenshiel, to Jamesina Fraser, youngest daughter of Norman Macleod, Esq.

6. At Whitelaw, Adam Thomson, Esq. Chesterhill, Northumberland, son of James Thomson, Esq. of Earnslaw, to Marion, daughter of the late Francis Walker, Esq.

— At Knockdolean, Mr Thomas Murray, surgeon, Colmonell, to Miss Mary, fourth daughter of Robert M'Ilwraith, Esq. of Auchenflower, Ballantrae.

18. At Stoke Courcey, Somerset, the Rev. James A. Stewart, B.A. late of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, to Mary, eldest daughter of the late Henry Sweeting, Esq. of Sherbon.

23. At Norman Lockhart's, Esq. York Place, Edinburgh, by the Rev. Dr Lee, John Dinwoodie, Esq. to Winifred Jane, eldest daughter of Colonel Archibald M'Murdo, Dumfries.

27. At Maryfield, Mr Robert Johnston, merchant, Glasgow, to Eliza Walker, eldest daughter of James Johnston, Esq. Glasgow.

— At Edinburgh, Andrew Buchanan, Esq. youngest son of David Carrick Buchanan, Esq. of Drumpellier and Mount Vernon, to Miss Bethia Hamilton Ramsay, youngest daughter of the late Wm. Ramsay, Esq. banker, Edinburgh.

27. At Catherine Bank House, Arthur Craigie, Esq. merchant in Leith, to Susanna, daughter of the Rev. Dr Ireland, minister of North Leith.

28. At Glasgow, James Home, Esq. of Linhouse, to Miss M'Naught, daughter of John M'Naught, Esq.

— Lieutenant A. Barclay, R.N. Oakwood Cottage, to Ann, daughter of Mr Henry Daun, farmer, Kirkton of Echt.

29. At Comely Gardens, William Mitchell, Esq. of the Commercial Bank of Scotland; Edinburgh, to Lillias, eldest daughter of the late David Cross, Esq. Pilrig Street.

— At Auchteraw, the Rev. John Macintyre, minister of Fort Augustus, to Eliza, eldest daughter of Thomas Clark, Esq. Auchteraw.

30. At Dunse, the Rev. John Birrell, one of the ministers of Cupar, in Fife, to Isabella, fourth daughter of the late John Turnbull, Esq. of Abbey St Bathans.

— At Newliston House, Patrick Fraser Tytler, Esq. advocate, to Miss Rachel Elizabeth Hog, third daughter of Thos. Hog of Newliston, Esq.

APRIL 1. At Liverpool, Richard Benson, Esq. of Fathom Park, county Armagh, Ireland, to Agnes, eldest daughter of the Rev. James Gray, chaplain in the Honourable East India Company's service, Bombay, late of the High School, Edinburgh.

3. At Edinburgh, Captain Cumming, Lessendrum House, Aberdeenshire, to Miss Lane, daughter of the late Rev. John Lane, vicar of Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, and niece of the late Sir E. Impey of Newark Park, Surrey.

— At Edinburgh, Mr William M. Bathgate, surgeon, Clyde Street, to Maria Wood, youngest daughter of Mr Jas. Lorimer, 65, York Place.

4. At Leith, Mr William Dick, shipowner, to Miss Crowden, Madeira Street.

— At Glasgow, Alexander Glasgöiv, Esq. merchant, to Helen, youngest daughter of the late William Smith, Esq.

— At Farnham, Surrey, Thos. Pearse, of Highway House, Froyle, Hants, Esq. to the Honourable Caroline Ker, eldest daughter of the late Lord Charles Beauchamp Ker, and niece of the late Marquis of Lothian.

4. At Dumfries, the Rev. John Smith, A.M. missionary to the Chinese, to Mary, second daughter of Mr Robert Bland, merchant, Dumfries.

5. At Stirling, John Murray, Esq. of Livlands, to Anne, daughter of the late Major Alexander Macgregor, of Balhaldies.

— At Heathfield, Ross-shire, J. Humphreys, Esq. surgeon, London, to Margaret, youngest daughter of Gustavus Airl, Esq. of Heathfield.

6. At Laverock Bank, Edinburgh, Dr William Cullen, to Henrietta, youngest daughter of Sir Henry Jardine, King's Remembrancer of the Court of Exchequer in Scotland.

— At Dunbar, Mr Samuel Watson, son of the late Jas. Watson, Esq. W.S. Edinburgh, to Miss Jane Home Landell.

8. In Dublin, Anthony Franks, Esq. to Sarah Louisa, only daughter of Mr E. H. Percy, of Dublin. This is the celebrated Mr Franks, who walked for two successive Sundays at Stephen's Green, in quest of a fair partner to solace his solitary hours.

11. At Glasgow, Mr John M'Kinnon, surgeon, to Margaret, daughter of the late Mr William Dick, manufacturer.

12. At Carnail, Lancashire, Alexander Murray, Esq. advocate, son of the late William Murray, Esq. of Polmaise, to Johnina, second daughter of the late John Wilkinson, Esq. of Castlehead and Brymbo.

— At Whitby, the Rev. Geo. Young, M.A. author of the History of Whitby, &c. to Margaret, daughter of the late Mr Robert Hunter of that place.

13. At St Philip's Church, Liverpool, Robert Hunter, Esq. manager of the Provincial Bank of Ireland, in Limerick, to Jane, daughter of Mr More, Chatham Street, Liverpool.

— At Tixall, in Staffordshire, Miss Constable, eldest daughter of the late Sir Thomas Constable, Bart. of Burton Constable, in the county of York, to Captain Chichester, of the 60th, or the Duke of York's Own Rifle Regiment. The bride was given away by the Right Hon. Lord Clifford, and after a splendid dejeuner à la fourchette, the happy couple left Tixall, in their travelling carriage and four for Malvern, in Worcestershire.

13. At the house of Leonard Horner, Esq. by the Rev. Sir Harry Moncreiff Wellwood, Bart. William Horton Lloyd, Esq. of Bedford Place, London, to Mary, youngest daughter of George Whitelocke; Esq. of Seymour Place, Portman Square.

14. At Richmond, Surrey, the Earl of Clare, to the Hon. Elizabeth Julia Georgiana Burrell, only daughter of the late Lord Gwydir and the Baroness Wiltoughby, of Eresby.

16. At Venice, after the rites of the Roman, Catholic Church, by the Pere Anton Schmalzl, in the grand Salon of the *Albergo Reale*, Ignace Malkowsky, Noble de Demavalden, Chevalier of the order of St George, Major and Commandant of the 7th Imperial battalion des Chasseurs at Santa Maria, Molg di Gacta, &c. and Commandant of the Imperial Chasseurs of the Two Sicilies, to Miss Stuart, niece to John Robertson, Esq. of Ednam House. The marriage was again performed at the palace of the British Consul-General, by the Rev. Stevens Pope, in presence of the Consul's family.

— At Dublin, the Rev. Henry Brougham, to Catherine Anne Mona, youngest daughter of the late Sir John Macartney, of Lish, in the county of Armagh, Bart.

17. In St George's Church, Queen Square, London, Dr William Henderson, physician in Aberdeen, to Margaret, third daughter of the late James Murray, Esq. of Aberdeen.

— At Lochmaben, Matthew Graham, Esq. of Priesthead, to Robina, eldest daughter of the late Rev. Henry Laurie, minister of the parish of Lochmaben.

— At Edinburgh, Andrew Johnston, younger of Rennyhill, advocate, Esq. to Barbara, eldest daughter of David Pearson, Esq.

— At Dysart, Wm. Hunt, Esq. W.S. to Mary, only daughter of James Normand, of Baltilly, Esq.

18. Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart. to the Hon. Anne Elizabeth Liddell.

— At Lambden, Captain Alexander Drysdale, 27th regiment, to Barbara, third daughter of the late James Nisbet, Esq. of Lambden.

— At Clapham, the Rev. Frederick Borradaile, prebendary of Lincoln, and domestic chaplain to the Right Honour-

able Lord Viscount Kenmure, to Deme-
tria, only daughter of the late Captain Robert Hudson, of Clapham.

19. At Edinburgh, Thomas C. Smith, solicitor, 6, Howe Street, to Louise Sophie, only daughter of Mr Samuel Albert Peter, Neuveville, canton of Berne, Switzerland.

— At St George's Church, Hanover Square, London, John Murray Nasmyth, Esq. only son of Sir James Nasmyth, of Posso, in the county of Peebles, Bart. to Mary, fourth daughter of Sir John Marjoribanks, of Lees, Bart, M.P. for Berwickshire.

— Francis Grant, Esq. second son of the late Francis Grant, Esq. of Kilgraston, to Miss Farquharson, eldest daughter of the late Captain Farquharson Ross of Invercauld.

20. At Aberdeen, Francis Burnett, Esq. son of the late John Burnett, Esq. of Elrick, to Elizabeth, the third daughter of the late James Tower, Esq. of the island of St Thomas.

— At London, James Macdonald, Esq. M.P. to Anne Charlotte, youngest daughter of the Rev. J. S. Ogle, of Kirkley Hall, Northumberland.

22. At Greenock, Wm. Leitch, Esq. to Mary Roach, daughter of the late A. Oughterson, Esq.

— At Edinburgh, Arthur Johnston, Esq. M.D. of Carrickbrea, county of Armagh, and Tremont, county of Down, Ireland, to Sarah Maria, third daughter of Thomas Whellier, Esq. late of Exeter, Devonshire.

23. At Burn Bank, Glasgow, Mr William White, merchant, Cupar Fife, to Margaret, youngest daughter of the late Andrew Marshall, Esq. of Camlachie.

— At Port Antonio, George Kinghorn Prince, Esq. M. D. Agualta Vale, St Mary's, Jamaica, to Susan Gordon, only child of the late Captain A. Shaw, Darnavert, Inverness-shire.

24. At Arbroath, Mr John D. Clarke, surgeon, to Margaret, second daughter of the late Provost Airth.

— At Whithorn, Thomas M'Lellan, Esq. distiller, Bladnoch, to Mary, eldest daughter of the late Charles Broadfoot, Esq. Whithorn.

25. At Great Yarmouth, William Ha-

milton, Esq. of Glasgow, to Mary Orton Lucas, eldest daughter of the Rev. Gibson Lucas, rector of Filby, Stokeby, &c. in the county of Norfolk.

25. At Paris, Henry Harvey, Esq. of St Audries, Somersetshire, to Agnes, daughter of Alexander Ramsay, Esq. formerly of the Hon. East India Company's civil service at Bombay.

— At Liverpool, Mr Archibald Sharp, merchant, Rothsay, to Miss Mary Williamson, only daughter of the late Captain Williams, of Liverpool.

— At Edinburgh, the Rev. James Grant, jun. first minister of South Leith, to Mrs Jessie Ann Campbell, widow of Major Archibald Campbell, of Bragleen.

— At Carlton Place, Glasgow, Henry Dunlop, Esq. to Anne, eldest daughter of the late Thomas Cairnie, Esq.

— At Glasgow, Walter Crum, Esq. merchant, to Jessie, youngest daughter of Wm. Graham, sen. Esq.

— At Glasgow, Robert Urquhart, Esq. merchant there, to Jane, daughter of David M'Haffie, Esq. of Overton.

26. At Edinburgh, Captain William S. Hope Johnstone of the R.N. to Eleonora Kirkpatrick, eldest daughter of Sir Thos. Kirkpatrick, of Closeburn, Bart.

27. At Edinburgh, Captain D'Arcy Wentworth, 73d regiment, to Elizabeth, third daughter of the late Major Charles Macpherson, Inspector-General of Barracks for North Britain.

— At Glasgow, Charles Jopling, Esq. Delancy Place, Camden Town, of the Adjutant-General's Office, Horse Guards, London, to Anne Middleton, eldest daughter of Mr Richard Thomson, manufacturer, Glasgow.

— At Greenock, James Boyd, Esq. surgeon, Hon. East India Company's service, to Isabella, second daughter of John Pringle, Esq. Greenock.

28. At Elgin, John Sandieman, Esq. surgeon, half pay royal artillery, to Milborough B. Shand, daughter of the late John Shand, Esq. of Arnhall.

— At Crathes, Captain Thomas Ramsay, second son of the late Sir Alexander Ramsay, of Balmain, Bart. to Margaret, youngest daughter of Sir Robert Burnett, of Leys, Bart.

— At Edinburgh, Stephen Bennett, Esq. of Greenfield, county of Londonder-

ry, Ireland, to Frances, youngest daughter of the late James Orr, Esq. of Thornly Park, Renfrewshire.

29. At Naples, Thomas Bulky, Esq. M.D. to Miss Anne Berry, second daughter of Dr Andrew Berry, of Edinburgh.

Lately, In Van Diemen's Land, Lieutenant-General Sir H. Todd, of the Bengal establishment, to Mary, youngest daughter of the late Captain Ewen M. Grimanist, North Uist.

— At Kirkcudbright, Captain Hannah, of the Duke of Lancaster East Indian, to Miss Mary M'Kinnti, third daughter of Provost M'Kinnel, Kirkcudbright.

MAY 2. At Kirkcudbright, Thomas Buckley, Esq. of Liverpool, to Miss Ryburn.

5. At Leith, Mr John Milne, junior, shipmaster, Macduff, to Jané, daughter of the late Mr Murdoch Cameron, merchant, Leith.

8. At London, Lieutenant Andrew Gardner, formerly of the 27th regiment, to Eliza, daughter of the late Mr J. Lentz, of Sloan Street.

— At London, Peter Atkinson, Esq. of York, architect, to Miss Goodall, the vocalist.

10. At Edinburgh, John Wilson, Esq. advocate, to Helen, only surviving daughter of the late Wm. Forbes, Esq. writer, Edinburgh.

13. In Berkely Square, London, John Bulteel, eldest son of John Bulteel, Esq. of Fleet, Devon, to Elizabeth, second daughter of Earl Grey.

15. At Edinburgh, Thomas Borland, Esq. writer, Kilmarnock, to Apne Bruce, only daughter of the late Francis Strachan, Esq. of the Hon. East India Company's civil service.

— Mr Alex. Clerk, 1, India Street, to Miss Ann Straton, only daughter of Mr Chares Straton, Prince's Street.

18. At Edinburgh, Donald Macdonald, Esq. of Lochinver, to Jessie, eldest daughter of the late Alexander Mackenzie, Esq. of Letterew.

26. At Masulipatam, Madras, Henry Vibart, Esq. Judge of the district of Masulipatam, to Mary Rose Campbell, eldest daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Alex. Campbell of Ballochyle.

28. At Porchester, M. Eras. Paul Emile de Bonnechese, second son of the

Chev. de Bonnebose, to Charlotte, third daughter of Captain Gourlay, R.N.

Lately, At Edinburgh, James Lawson, Esq. W.S. to Margaret, youngest daughter of the deceased Mr John Clarke, Edinburgh.

JUNE 1. At London, Charles, second son of the late James Balfour, Esq. to Maria Caroline, daughter of Sir John Edward Harrington, Bart.

— At London, John Taylor, Esq. of Ballochneck, to Eliza, youngest daughter of George Meliss, Esq. Perth.

5. At Lord Macdonald's house in London, the Earl of Hopetoun, to the Hon. Louisa Bosville Macdonald, eldest daughter of Lord Macdonald.

— At London, the Rev. Herbert Oakeley, third son of Sir Charles Oakeley, Bart. to Atholl Keturah Murray, second daughter of the late Lord Charles Aynsley.

— At St Mungo's Wells, Wm. Dodds, Esq. Provost of Haddington, to Harriet, daughter of John Sheriff, Esq.

— At Shawfield, Major Walker, late 42d foot, to Helen, only daughter of the late Robert Cleghorn, M.D. of Shawfield.

— At Bonnington Lodge, John Dalrymple Murray, Esq. of Murraythwaite, to Maria, daughter of William Hagart, Esq.

6. At George's Square, the Rev. John George Gotthreid Wermelskirch, of Posen, to Anne, youngest daughter of the late Ninean Lewis, Esq. of Plean.

— At No. 1, Meadow Place, Mr John Wallace, accountant to the Provincial Bank of Ireland, at Clonmell, to Janet Stewart, daughter of the late James Mac-lauren, Esq. merchant, Glasgow.

— At Cowhill, near Dumfries, N. Hollingsworth, Esq. only son of the Rev. N. J. Hollingsworth, A.M. vicar of Haltwhistle, Northumberland, to Margaretta Euphemia, eldest daughter of Captain C. J. Johnston, R.N. of Cowhill.

8. At 27, George Square, Capt. Matthew Moncrieff, of Culfargie, to Isabella, eldest daughter of the late Archibald Campbell, Esq.

— Mr R. Hudspeth, 7, Henderson Row, to Marianne, eldest daughter of the late Rev. Adam Cairns of Longforgan.

8. At Dunchattan, John Turnbull, Esq. to Mary, daughter of the late William Hutcheson, Esq.

12. At Newmill, Mr Alex. Walker, Perth, to Jane Blair, eldest daughter of Mr James Henderson, Newmill.

13. At Trinity, Thomas Jones, Esq. to Mary, eldest daughter of Robert Menzies, Esq.

15. At Fairnielaw, Colington, Mr Robert Mackinlay, merchant, Edinburgh, to Ann, eldest daughter of John Petett, Esq.

16. At Edinburgh, the Rev. Alexander Watt, A.M. to Charlotte Ellen, only daughter of the late Captain Robert Rutherford Campbell.

19. At Leith, Christopher Wood, Esq. jun. to Marion, daughter of John Hay, Esq. Links.

— At Cupar Fife, the Rev. William Currie Arnal, Associate Congregation, Portobello, to Miss Boswall Moffat, daughter of Mr Abraham Moffat, supervisor of Excise.

— At Stirling, Peter Barland, Esq. surgeon, R.N. to Elizabeth, daughter of the late Mr Patrick Cunningham, tanner, Stirling.

20. At Thurso Manse, the Rev. Donald Sage, minister of Rothes, to Eliza, daughter of the Rev. William Mackintosh, minister of Thurso.

21. At Glasgow, Mr Wm. B. Sandeman, Leith, to Isabella, eldest daughter of Mr Robert Watt, manufacturer.

— At Funtington, Sussex, Major W. Hewitt, second son of General Sir Geo. Hewitt, Bart. to Sarah, second daughter of General Sir James Duff.

22. At London, Sackville Fox, Esq. to the Right Honourable Lady Charlotte Osborne, daughter of his Grace the Duke of Leeds.

23. At Cardrona Mains, Mr John Aitchison, Kerfield, to Jane, eldest daughter of the late Thomas Stodart, Esq.

24. At London, Mr Dutton, to Lady Elizabeth Howard, daughter of the Earl of Suffolk.

— At London, Andrew Wood, Esq. of the Bengal Medical Establishment, to Caroline Stewart, youngest daughter of Colonel Sherwood.

26. At Bargaivie, Mr Richard Berrie,

writer, Cupar, to Isabella, daughter of the late Mr John Scott, tenant of Balgarvie.

27. At Dean Street, Mr George Carphlin, jun. solicitor-at-law, to Susan, second daughter of the late Rev. James Rhind, of Whitburn.

28. At Edinburgh, Wm. Leckie Ewing, Esq. merchant, Glasgow, to Eleanora, eldest daughter of John Macfarlan, Esq. advocate.

— At Shelburn Bank, David Forrest, Esq. to Mrs Eliza Thompso, relict of Mr John Thomson, surgeon, royal navy.

— At Shelburn Bank, Peter Fairbairn, M.D. surgeon, R.N. to Mary Anne, daughter of the late Mr David Forrest, auctioneer, Edinburgh.

29. At East Craigie, Mr James Bishop, farmer, Craigerook, to Helen, youngest daughter of the late Archibald Wilson, Esq. House of Hill.

30. At Glenlee, the Chief of Clanranald, to Lady Ashburton.

— At Balboughty, Henry Thomson, Esq. Culfargie, to Margaret, eldest daughter of James Wood, Esq.

— At Parknook, George Hoskins, Esq. of Liverpool, to Helen, daughter of the late Robert Allan, Esq. banker in Edinburgh.

JULY 1. At Hanwell Church, Middlesex, George Hickman, Esq. Great Marlow, Bucks, to Margaret, eldest daughter of the late William Aitcheson, Edinburgh.

3. At Glasgow, Mr James Gilmour, merchant there, to Janet, daughter of the late Mr William Gourlay.

4. At St Peter's Church, Newington, Lieutenant Glasen, of the royal marines, to Cecilia, only surviving daughter of the late Sir John Mouat Keith, Bart.

— At Edinburgh, Alexander George Fraser, Esq. of the Bower, Grenada, to Janet William, third daughter of the late John Moir of Hillfoot, Esq. W.S.

6. At Circus Place, Mr James Crichton, surgeon, Stockbridge, to Helen, daughter of James Simpson, Esq.

— At the Waterloo hotel, John Craig, Esq. Laverock Bank, to Miss Christina Gibb.

10. At Tullyallan distillery, Mr John

Sawers, writer, Stirling, to Margaret, only daughter of Mr John Primrose.

10. At Stirling, James M'Gibbon, Esq. late of Calcutta, to Mrs Cecelia Main, daughter of Mr William Brown, merchant, Stirling.

11. At Castle-Douglas, Mr Adam Grierson, Knockbrex, to Miss Gordon of Castle-Douglas.

— At 17, Walker Street, Captain J. W. Bouverie, 17th foot, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of James Alston, Esq. of Clunifore.

13. At Northfield, John Parker, Esq. S.S.C. to Margaret, eldest daughter of David Scott, Esq.

14. At Edinburgh, Robert Lewis, Esq. of Plean, Stirlingshire, to Helen, eldest daughter of Adam Maitland, Esq. of Dundrennan, stewartry of Kirkcudbright.

17. At Edinburgh, Alexander Hamilton, Esq. surgeon, R.N. to Miss Agnes Livingstone.

— At Edinburgh, Mr John Brown, writer, to Anne, fifth daughter of Captain James Donald, Linton Cottage, West Linton.

— At Old Aberdeen, William Garrow, Esq. advocate to Ann, youngest daughter of John Irvine, Esq.

18. At Aberdeen, the Rev. Mr Balmor, of Berwick, to Jane, fourth daughter of the late Mr Scott, upholsterer.

19. At Edinburgh, Mr John Barron, depute-clerk, &c. to the Commission of Teinds, to Margaret, youngest daughter of Mr Charles More, Bellevue Crescent.

21. At Ardoch Manse, William Pattison, junior, Esq. merchant, to Grace, youngest daughter of John M'Farlane, Esq. Stockbridge.

25. At St George's Chapel, Edinburgh, Monsieur Hypolite Cornillon, to Helen, daughter of Charles Neaves, Esq. writer, Edinburgh.

— At Springland, William Fraser, Esq. younger of Culbockie, W.S. to Margaret, eldest daughter of David George Sandeman, Esq.

— At Belvidere, Mr James Westwater, silk-mercier, Glasgow, to Jessie, eldest daughter of Deacon Andrew Wilson, Edinburgh.

— At the Manse of Crail, John Marshall, Esq. advocate, to Margaret Tod,

second daughter of the Rev. Andrew Bell of Kilduncan, parish of Crail.

25. At Caitlooh House, the Rev. R. Hunter, minister of the Scottish Chapel, Carlisle, to Janet, daughter of the Rev. William McCall of Caitlooh.

27. At Edinburgh, James Macallan, Esq., writer to the signet, to Cecilia, daughter of the late William Bertram, Esq. of Nisbet.

29. At London, Captain George J. Hope Johnstone, R.N. to Maria, daughter of Joseph Ranking, Esq. Ulster Place.

— At Edinburgh, Mr Alex. Lindsay, writer, to Miss Margaret Begbie, daughter of the late Mr Begbie, Leigh.

31. At Gilmore Place, Dr Martin Sinclair, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, to Helen, younger daughter of the late Edward Simpson, Edinburgh.

— At No. 6, Castle Street, A. M. John Crawford, Esq. of the Customs, Greenock, to Margaret, eldest daughter of William Balfour, Esq. M.D.

— At Hope Park, Mr Graham Binny, writer, Edinburgh, to Marianne, eldest daughter of Thomas Kyd, Esq. of Exchequer.

Lately, The Rev. John Mc Clelan, minister of Kelton, to Miss Chalmers, sister of the Rev. Dr Chalmers, of the University of St Andrews.

AUGUST 1. At Glasgow, James Normand, junior, Esq. Dysart, to Miss Joanna Drew.

— At Moneydie, Mr James Cochrane, Elm Row, Edinburgh, to Margaret, daughter of Mr George Richmond, Moneydie.

— At Newington, the Rev. John Henderson, of Carmunnock, to Margaret Houston, daughter of the late Robert Forrester, Esq. treasurer to the Bank of Scotland.

— At Kelravock Castle, Cosmo Innes, Esq. advocate, to Isabella, eldest daughter of Hugh Rose, Esq. of Kelravock.

2. At South St James's Street, Mr Edward West, bookseller, Edinburgh, to Isabella, second daughter of Mr William Bathgate, merchant there.

— At Trichinopoly, Lieutenant C. H. Graeme, 5th light cavalry, to Sarah, second daughter of the late Lieut.-Colonel R. Bruce, Madras establishment.

7. At St George's Church, Madras,

M.A. Captain Francis Frankland Whinnyates, of the horse brigade artillery, to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of John Campbell, Esq. of Ormdale, Argyllshire.

7. Mr F. I. Beens, of Dunkirk, France, officer of infantry, to Maria Grandeau, eldest daughter of Mons. Joseph Grandeau, Edinburgh.

8. At Slains Castle, James Wemyss, Esq. of Wemyss, M.P. to Lady Emma Hay, sister of the Earl of Erroll.

— At No. 6, Pitt Street, James Farnie, Esq. Burntisland, to Miss Margaret Paterson Cairns, daughter of the late Rev. Adam Cairns, minister of Longforgan.

— At Old Aberdeen, Arthur Thomson, Esq. manager of the Aberdeen Sea Insurance Company, to Bridget, eldest daughter of John Anderson, Esq. late of Calcutta.

10. At 133, George Street, Stair Stewart, Esq. of Physgill and Glasserton, to Miss Helen Sinclair, daughter of the Right Hon. Sir John Sinclair, of Ulster, Bart.

— At Dunans, Argyllshire, Charles Gordon, Esq. deputy-secretary of the Highland Society of Scotland, to Helen, eldest daughter of the late John Fletcher, Esq. of Dunans.

14. At Kirkcudbright, Mr Donaldson, rector of the grammar school there, to Jane, second daughter of Mr Hope of the same institution.

— At Paisley, Captain Kirk, of his Majesty's 70th regiment, to Agnes, daughter of James Buchanan, Esq.

15. At Rosebank, Newington, Mr William Lawder, farmer, Inverleith Mains, to Helen, eldest daughter of Mr David Bishop, farmer, Rosebank.

16. At St Andrew's, Dublin, Captain W. Childers, 42d regiment, grandson of the late Lord Eardley, to Mary Elizabeth, relict of Robert Hume, Esq. 41st regiment.

17. At Kirkaldy, Mr James Black, of Dysart, to Ann, daughter of Dr Black, Kirkaldy.

— At Worthing, Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Church, K.G.C. to Mary Anne, eldest daughter of Sir Robert Wilmot, Bart. of Osmaston, in the county of Derby.

21. At South House, Andrew Carrick

jun. Esq. merchant, Edinburgh, to Margaret, third daughter of Mr Baigrie, farmer, South House.

22. At Aldenham, Herts, Capt. Macdougall, R.N. of Macdougall, to Elizabeth Sophia, only child of Charles Sheldon Timins, Esq. of Oriel Lodge, Cheltenham.

— John Govan Stewart, Esq. to Ann, youngest daughter of the late Mr Archibald Robertson, Peebles.

— At Arlary House, Kinross-shire, Lieut. Edward Bayley, R.N. to Mary, youngest daughter of the late David Walker Arnott, Esq. of Arlary.

24. At Leith, David Frazer, Esq. commander of the *Areturus* West Indiaman, to Hannah, eldest daughter of Alexander Sime, Esq. ship-builder, Leith.

— At West Hurtle, Charles Farquharson, M.D. Lisbon, to Margaret, daughter of John Wilson, Esq. of Thornley.

25. At Craigie, Patrick George Skene, Esq. of Hallyards, to Emily, second daughter of the late John Rait, Esq. of Anniston.

31. At Burntisland, John Leven, Esq. W.S. to Janet, youngest daughter of the late Rev. James Wemyss, minister of that parish.

SEPTEMBER 1. Here, Mr Jas. White, farmer, Kingsdale Mains, to Helen, daughter of the late James Chalmers, Esq. solicitor-at-law.

— At Glasgow, James B. Daubuz, Esq. lieutenant 1st royal dragoons, to Anne, daughter of Robert Hagart, Esq.

5. At Orkie, by the Rev. Dr Barclay of Kettle, Robert Stocks, Esq. of Abden, to Jesse, daughter of the late John Thomson, Esq. of Holkettle.

— At Hilltown, Patrick Bannerman, Esq. advocate, Aberdeen, to Anna Maria, second daughter of Sir William Johnston, Bart. of that ilk.

6. At Prestonpans, Mr John Whitecross, teacher, Edinburgh, to Helen, daughter of Mr John Heriot, merchant, Prestonpans.

7. At Parkhill, Francis Gordon of Kincardine, to Isabella, third daughter of Lieut.-Gen. John Gordon Cuming Skene, of Pitlurg and Dyce.

— At Aberdeen, William Dauneay, Esq.

advocate, to Margaret, eldest daughter of the late John Black, Esq. of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

7. At St Margaret's Hill, Ayrshire, Thos. Carlyle, Esq. advocate, to Frances Wallace, sixth daughter of the Rev. Arch. Laurie, D.D. minister of Loudoun.

8. At Portobello, John Livingstone, Esq. merchant, Glasgow, to Eliza Adam, daughter of John Stewart, Esq. merchant, London.

12. At Birdsaik, Cullen, the Rev. F. W. Grant, minister of Banff, to Sophia, youngest daughter of Thomas Rannic, Esq.

— Captain Charles Hope, R.N. second son of the Right Hon. the Lord President of the Court of Session, to Anne, eldest daughter of Captain Webley Parry, R.N. and C.B. of Noyadd Trefaur, in the county of Cardigan.

— At Jude, Lieut.-Colonel John Macdonald of the 91st regiment, to Adriana, daughter of the late James M'Inroy, Esq. of Jude.

— At Fortrose, the Rev. Archibald Brown, minister of St Andrew's Church, Demerara, to Mrs Martha Junor, daughter of the late Colin Martha, Esq. of Bennetsfield.

— At Mary-la-bonne Church, Lieut.-Colonel Latour of Staughton Lodge, Bedfordshire, C.B., and Knight of the Guelphic Order, to Urie Cameron Barclay Innes, eldest daughter of John Innes, Esq. of Cowje, Kincardineshire.

13. At Polmaly, Glen Urquhart, John Anderson Robertson, Esq. W.S., to Isabella Elcanor, daughter of the late Captain Johnson of the Royal Engineers, and felicit of James Errol Gray, Esq. surgeon, Inverness.

14. At Lasswade, Mr John Gellatly, agent for the Carron Company at Leith, to Abigail, eldest daughter of the late John Nimmo, Esq. W.S.

15. At Kersemains, Robert Stewart, junior, Esq. W.S., to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Andrew Pringle, Esq. of Kersemains.

18. At Forth Street, Edinburgh, Humphrey Graham, Esq. to Joanna, youngest daughter of Adam Wilson, Esq. deputy-clerk of Session.

18. At Edinburgh, H. Palmer, Esq. to Susan, daughter of General Campbell, Priory, St Andrews.

19. At Alderston, Charles Granville Stuart Menteath, Esq. to Cecilia Louisa, youngest daughter of the late Walter Cecil, Esq. of Moreton Jeffries.

20. At Stranraer, James Campbell Miller, Esq. wine-merchant, Bath, to Helen Boyd, eldest daughter of the late John Kerr, Esq. surgeon in Stranraer.

22. Alexander Wight, Esq. W.S. to Catherine, daughter of the late Sir James Campbell of Aberuchil and Kilbryde, Bart.

25. At Irvine, Dr S. A. Pagan, Maitland Street, Edinburgh, to Elizabeth Miller, only daughter of Dr M'Kenzie, Irvine.

28. At Loganbank, John Mackenzie, Esq. son of the late Sir Hector Mackenzie of Gairloch, Bart. to Mary Jane, daughter of the Rev. John Inglis, D.D. of Old Greyfriars, Edinburgh.

OCTOBER 1. At Glasgow, Mr John Mudie, manufacturer, to Janet, youngest daughter of John Mackintosh, Esq. accountant.

— At Stewarston, Ayrshire, the Rev. Thomas Montgomery, minister of the parish of Sanquhar, to Mary, daughter of Andrew Brown, Esq. writer in Stewarston.

2. John Whitefoord M'Kenzie, Esq. W.S. to Jane Campbell, daughter of the late John Gordon, Esq. of Carleton.

3. At Edinburgh, Mr Archibald Campbell, Leith, to Isabella, daughter of Mr Robert Beattie, Somers Town, London.

4. In St John's Chapel, Edinburgh, John Clerk Maxwell, Esq. of Middlebie, advocate, to Frances, eldest daughter of the late Robert Hodson Cay, Esq. Judge of the High Court of Admiralty in Scotland.

5. At Dublin, Henry Graham, Esq. M.P. for that city, to Mary O'Kelly, only child of the late Philip Whitfield Harvey.

10. At Edinburgh, the Rev. James Gregory, Precentor of Kildare, and Rector of Haristown, to Jane, eldest daughter of the late Alexander Beggie of London.

— At Broughty Ferry, Alexander Clayhills, Esq. of Invergowrie, to Eliza-

beth, eldest daughter of Lieutenant-General David Hunter of Burnside.

— At London, John Dean Paul, Esq. eldest son of Sir John Dean Paul, Bart. to Georgiana Georgina Beauclerk, of St Leonard's Lodge, Sussex, and granddaughter of the late Duke of Leinster.

— At Wemyss Castle, the Right Hon. Lord Loughborough, to Miss Wemyss of Wemyss.

11. At Edinburgh, John Murray, Esq. London, to Caroline Jamina, eldest daughter of the late Sir John Leslie, Bart. of Findrassie.

— At Dunfermline, Mr James Barlas, merchant, Perth, to Eliza, eldest daughter of the Rev. Dr Black.

16. At Inverdunning, Strathearn, Alexander Balfour, Esq. Dundee, to Miss Margaret Steuart of Inverdunning.

17. At Old Aberdeen, the Rev. Dr Mackenzie, minister of Clyne, to Sophia Jane, only daughter of the late Rev. William Mackenzie, chaplain, 72d regiment of foot.

18. At Chorley, Captain Hay of the Carabincers, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of John Powden Hindle, Esq. of Gillingbrant Hall, in the county of Lancaster.

— At Bothwell Castle, Major Moray Stirling of Ardoch, to the Hon. Francis Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Douglas of Douglas.

19. At St George's, Hanover Square, London, Henry Murray, Esq. youngest son of the late Lord George Murray, to Catherine Otway Cave, third daughter of the late Henry Otway, Esq. of Stanford Hall, Leicestershire.

23. At Edinburgh, James M'Alpine, Esq. merchant, Leith, to Janet Alexander, youngest daughter of Charles Hunt, Esq. Elm Row.

— At Alderly, Cheshire, Captain William Edward Parry, R.N., to Isabella Louisa, fourth daughter of Sir John Thomas Stanley, Bart.

— At 1, Hanover Street, Mr John Mubet, to Elizabeth, second daughter of Mr John Brash, secretary to the North British Insurance Company.

— At Beanton, Captain Macdonald, Royal Engineers, to Ramsay, daughter of the Hon. William Maule of Panmure, M.P.

— At Glasgow, the Rev. William Taus-

nihil, Kirkintulloch, to Miss Smith of Kilmarnock:

23. At Glasgow, Adam Monteith, Esq. to Jean, eldest daughter of Dr Chrystal.

25. The Rev. James Maitland, minister of Kells, to Jessie, third daughter of the late Captain Cosby Swindell Norvell of Boghall.

— Mr Daniel M'Leod of London, to Elizabeth, second daughter of John Hunter, Esq. merchant, Edinburgh.

— At Montquhannie, Fifeshire, Harry Gordon, Esq. of Knockspoke, to Anne, youngest daughter of the late George Carnegie, Esq. of Pittarrow.

31. At Norristown Manse, Mr Alexander Muat, merchant, Stirling, to Janet Cunningham, eldest daughter of the Rev. John Sommers.

Lately. At Stratford, Wilts, Thomas Smith, Esq. of the Ionian Government Service, to Maria Louisa, daughter of Charles Roberts, Esq.

NOVEMBER 1. At Cherry Valley, county of Antrim, David Shaw, Esq. Ayr, to Glencairn Dalrymple, eldest daughter of John Armstrong, Esq. Cherry Valley.

2. At Craigmaddie, Captain Alexander Dirom, of the 8th King's Regiment, to Joanna Eliza, only child of Lieutenant-General Peter.

— At Merchiston House, William Nivison, Esq. surgeon, Strathmiglo, to Sarah Scott of Wooler, teacher of the Day School, Fountainbridge.

6. At Haddington, Alexander Fyfe, physician, to Angelica, youngest daughter of William Moir, Esq.

8. At the hotel of the British Ambassador, at Paris, the Honourable Ferdinand St John, (attached to his Majesty's Mission at Florence,) to Selina Charlotte, youngest daughter of Colonel Keating, and niece to the Earl of Meath.

— At the Manse of Kilmallie, Lieutenant John M'Phee, 79th regiment, to Jane, third daughter of the Rev. Duncan M'Intyre, minister of Kilmallie.

9. At Montrose, the Rev. John Lyall of Blairgowrie, to Barbara, youngest daughter of Mr James Watson, late stamp-master, Montrose.

15. At Dolphington, Robert Brown Cunningham, Esq. Adelphi, London, to Elizabeth, second daughter of Mr James Cunningham.

16. Robert Gibbs Kinniburgh, junior, of the Deaf and Dumb Institution, Glasgow, to Sarah, fourth daughter of Mr Thomas Gregory, York Place, Edinburgh.

20. At Glasgow, Lieutenant John Kerr Gloag, of the 2d Regiment of Bombay Native Infantry, to Miss Elizabeth Anne M'Brair, daughter of Mr Archibald M'Brair, merchant in Glasgow.

21. At George Square, Mr Brown, Leunie, to Mary, eldest daughter of the Rev. Charles Wood, minister of Wilton and Robertson.

— At Craigton, Alexander Dawson, Esq. merchant, Glasgow, to Mary, second daughter of David Dunlop, Esq. of Craigie.

23. At the Marquis of Aylesbury's Villa, at East Sheen, Thomas Frederick Vernon Wentworth, Esq. of Wentworth Castle, county of York, to Lady Augusta Louisa Brudenell Bruce, the eldest unmarried daughter of the Marquis and Marchioness of Aylesbury.

24. At Dundee, the Rev. John Macfarlane, Ardoch, to Janet Marshall, eldest daughter of George Gray, Esq.

— At Stoke Church, Davenport, Chas. Leslie, Esq. of the Duke of York's Own Rifle Corps, third son of John Leslie, Esq. of Bolquham and Fetterneir House, Aberdeenshire, to Mary, youngest daughter of Major-General Sir Charles Holloway.

25: At St Pancras, London, Major Anderson, of the 50th regiment, to Mary, the only daughter of Peter Campbell, Esq. late of Whitley Park, Northumberland.

27. At Souleseat Manse, the Rev. John Lamb, minister of Kirkmaiden, to Eliza, second daughter of the Rev. Peter Ferguson, minister of Inch.

29. At the Right Hon. the Lord Provost's, Lieut.-Col. Commandant William Douglas Knox, of the Hon. East India Company's service, on the Bengal establishment, to Jane, eldest daughter of the late John Waite, Esq. London.

30. At Morpeth, William Thompson, Esq. to Ann, daughter of the late Robert Car, Esq. of Bowsdon, Northumberland.

— At Aberdeen, the Rev. Alexander Urquhart of Tough, to Margaret, youngest daughter of the late Ballic George Forbes, merchant in Aberdeen.

30. At Kirkaldy, Captain Robert Tod, of the whale ship *Caledonia*, of that port, to Jane, daughter of William Hutchison, Esq. there.

DECEMBER 5. At Hanley, Staffordshire, Captain Archibald Inglis, son of the late Vice-Admiral John Inglis of Auchendjany, to Catherine, third daughter of the late Peter Warberton, Esq. of Bleackhill, Staffordshire.

— At St Andrews, John Jobson, Esq. Dundee, to Margaret, eldest daughter of the late Rev. John Duff, D.D. minister of Kinfauns, Perthshire.

6. At Malta Terrace, William Tate, Esq. merchant, London, to Mary, youngest daughter of the late Major John Mouro, of the Hon. East India Company's Service.

7. At Edinburgh, Mr William Cockburn, to Jane, only daughter of the late Mr Robert Renshaw, Lincoln.

11. At Tomperran, the Rev. James Walker, A.M. minister of Muthill, to Christian, daughter of James M'Laren, Esq.

12. At 50, Queen Street, Mr John Lauder Carphim, merchant in Leith, to Margaret, daughter of William Scott, Esq. surgeon, Hawick.

15. At Keir Street, Mr Andrew Turnbull, accountant of Excise, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the Rev. James M. Robertson, minister of Livingstone.

— At the Manse of Moffat, Mr Robert Tod, merchant, Liverpool, to Jane, daughter of the Rev. Alex. Johnston, minister of Moffat.

— At Streatham Church, near London, Mr Henry Dunn, late of Nottingham, to Euphemia, second daughter of Mr Ebenezer Birrel, Kirkaldy.

19. At York Place, Mr William McCrie, merchant, Edinburgh, second son of the Rev. Dr McCrie, to Isabella, only daughter of the late Captain Charles Greig, of the Hon. East India Company's service.

— At Naughton House, Fifeshire, William Burnett, Esq. of the Bombay army, to Isabella Morison, only daughter of Andrew Pitcairn, Esq. of Pitcullo.

— At Banff, John Barlet, Esq. of Bentinck Street, London, Doctor of Medicine, to Mary, eldest daughter of Colonel George Gordon Robinson of Banff

20. At Edinburgh, Henry Monteith, Esq. of Carstairs, to Miss Sarah Fullerton, daughter of the late William Fullerton, Esq. of Carstairs.

— At Dalhousie Grange, John Richardson, Esq. of Pitfour, to Miss Mary Hay, third daughter of the late James Hay, Esq. of Collieston.

21. At Sweetbank, Fife, David Peatt, Esq. Coates, to Elizabeth, daughter of Neil Ballingall, Esq. Sweetbank.

— At Clerk Street, William Tait, Holms Mill, to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mr James Tait, bookseller.

23. At Bowden Church, John A. Murray, Esq. to Miss Rigby, eldest daughter of the late Wm. Rigby, Esq. of Oldfield Hall, Cheshire.

25. At Dumfries, the Rev. Jacob Richardson, minister of Largs, to Wilhelmina, daughter of the Rev. Dr Alex. Scott, minister of St Michael's Church, Dumfries.

— At Edinburgh, Mr George Simson, of the Edinburgh Drawing Institution, to Clotilde, youngest daughter of Mr Joseph Grandcau of Lyons.

26. At Sunnyside, Robert Moir, Esq. surgeon, East Linton, to Anne, youngest daughter of the late John Forman, Esq. Corstorphine.

28. At Studley Priory, Oxfordshire, Charles Wetherell, M.P. his Majesty's Attorney-General, to Jane Sarah Elizabeth, second daughter of Sir Alexander Croke.

— At Edinburgh, Major Hugh McGregor, 63d regiment, to Margaret, eldest daughter of the late Alex. Edgar, Esq. of Wedderley, Jamaica.

— At Edinburgh, the Rev. Robert Watt, benochy, to Catherine Christina Whytt, relict of the Rev. William Anderson of Abbotshall.

DEATHS.

JANUARY 1. At Dumfries, Anna, daughter of James Dalzell, Esq. of Barn-Crosh.

— At his house, Argyll Court, Glasgow, John Carnegie, Esq.

— At Marston House, Viscount Duncarvan, aged 27.

— At his house, Lauriston Place, Edinburgh, William Lawrie, Esq. writer.

1. At Leith, Mr Thomas Shirreff, glazier there.

— At Cornhill, near Ayr, Lieutenant John Cavendish, late of the 4th royal veteran battalion, aged 49 years.

— At Glasgow, Mr John Bell, teacher of languages, aged 32 years, much and justly regretted. He was a man who, for the extent of his knowledge in ancient, modern, and especially Eastern literature, was an ornament to the city and the University of Glasgow. He was acquainted with the Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Saxon, Teutonic, Gothic, Icelandic, Portuguese, Arabic, Persian, Chaldaic, Sanscrit, Hindostanee, Bengalee, and several other languages; and he possessed such a critical knowledge of many of them, as not only to relish their beauties, but even to enter into the merits of the critics who have professed to write grammars and lexicons of those languages, and to publish editions of works written on them. He was the undaunted antagonist of the celebrated Dr Lee, Professor of Arabic in the University of Oxford; and so powerful were his criticisms, that the learned Professor found it necessary to reply to them, once and again, in the Asiatic Journal.

— At Manse of Lumphanan, the Rev. William Shand, minister of that parish, in the 87th year of his age, and 56th of his ministry.

3. At Marseilles, of a long and painful disorder, Marshal Suchet, Duke of Albuféra, one of Bonaparte's favourite generals.

— At Edinburgh, Wm. Brodie, Esq. of Milton.

4. At Lonmay, in the 81st year of his age, the Rev. William Sangster, who for fifty-seven years held the pastoral charge of the Episcopal congregation in that parish. Mr Sangster was the last survivor of those Episcopal clergymen against whom the penal statutes, so happily repealed by a wise and tolerant Government in 1792, were put in force.

— While on his passage from Chittagong to Calcutta, Captain Alex. C. Burnett, of the 54th regiment.

— At Portobello, Lady Stirling of Glorat.

5. At Hawthornbank, the infant son of Thomas Graham, Esq. W.S.

— At Carlton Place, Glasgow, Barbara Robb, third daughter of Hector Grant, merchant there.

— At Holyrood Gardens, Edinburgh, Mr John Miller, gardener, aged 56.

— At Manse of Coldstone, the Rev. Robert Farquharson, aged 78.

— At her house, North Leith, in the 68th year of her age, Mrs Margaret Warrack, widow of the late Charles Gordon, Esq. Collector of Excise, Kelso.

— At West Linton, William Keyden, Esq. of Lynedale, W.S.

— At Glasgow, Henry Erskine, youngest son of Mr Walter Wardlaw, Richmond Street.

6. James Nisbet, Esq. of Lambden.

7. At Dunkeld, after a short illness, Lieutenant Simon Marchison, of the royal marines.

9. At Dean Lodge, Edinburgh, Mrs Jean Moncrieff, relict of Adam Cunningham, Esq. of Bonnington.

— At his house, Salisbury Square, Pleasance, Edinburgh, after a short illness, Mr Sime Ruthven, of the Scotsman Office, much regretted.

10. At his house, at Richmond, Sir David Dundas, Bart. Serjeant-Surgeon to the King.

— James Bait, Esq. of Viewfield, near Edinburgh, while sitting by the fire after dinner, fell back in his chair and breathed his last, in the arms of his sister, who ran to support him.

11. At Portobello, Mr Thomas Dick, of the Excise, much regretted.

— At Hillhousefield, Leith, Mrs Flora Barclay; and, at Cheltenham, on the 11th current, Miss Anna Barclay, daughters of the late Mr William Barclay.

— At South Fort Street, Leith, Mrs Janet Walker, wife of Mr William Reid, bookseller, Leith.

— At Leuchars, Fife, Helen Hedderwick, wife of Mr George Webster, surgeon, after a short and severe illness.

12. At her house, Salisbury Place, Newington, Edinburgh, Mrs Elizabeth Tindal, widow of Mr Thomas Young, teacher, Edinburgh.

— At Edinburgh, Jean, third daughter of Mr William Williamson, writer.

12. Of cholera, while on field duty with his regiment, against the Calapoor Rajah, in the southern, Mahratta country, Andrew Gibson, Esq. M.D. surgeon in the service of the Hon. East India Company, Bombay.

— At Vienna, at an advanced age, Esq. John Fyffe, a native of this city.

— At Inverness, Mrs Fraser, relict of the late William Fraser, Esq. Commissary of Inverness.

13. At Collessan, Argyllshire, in her 51st year, after a painful and protracted illness, Margaret Campbell, spouse of John Campbell, Esq.

— At Slateford, Miss Joanna Thomson, daughter of the late Mr John Thomson, shipmaster, Leith.

— At Manse of Aboyne, the Rev. Thomas Gordon, minister of Aboyne, in the 83d year of his age.

— At Florence, William Slade, Esq. R.N.

— On board the ship Pomona, while on a voyage to Jamaica, Lieut.-Colonel Mark Howard Drummond, of Kelty, late of the 72d, or Albany Highlanders.

— At Concordia, in the island of Tobago, Dr Andrew Kenney, formerly physician in Edinburgh.

— At Eastfield, Mr James Taylor, merchant, Glasgow.

— At Aberdeen, Mr William Leslie, late merchant, in the 75th year of his age.

— At Hendersyde Park, aged 70, George Waldie, Esq. of Hendersyde, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, and a Deputy-Lieutenant for the county of Roxburgh.

— At Glasgow, at her father's house, 5, Carlton Place, Mrs Catharine Garden, relict of the late Archibald Ferrier, Esq. W.S. Edinburgh.

— At Glasgow, Mrs Janet Anderson, wife of Mr John Stewart, wine merchant; and, on the 11th, their infant daughter.

14. At Picardy Place, Edinburgh, Miss Elizabeth Clerk, daughter of the late John Clerk, Esq. of Eldin, and sister of Lord Eldon.

— At St John's Hill, Edinburgh, Mrs Christian Sutherland, daughter of the late Rev. John Sutherland, minister of

Dornoch, Sutherlandshire, and relict of the late Mr William Bruce, banker, Edinburgh.

15. At Edinburgh, Mr John Steele, senior, late confectioner, Prince's Street.

— At Newhaven, Leith, in the 52d year of his age, Lieutenant George Harris, R.N. superintendent of the ferry at that place. The public service has, by this excellent man's death, lost a most able, zealous, and indefatigable officer.

— At Robert Street, Brompton, Alex. Learmonth, Esq. late merchant in London.

— At St John's Street, Edinburgh, Miss Ann Balfour, youngest daughter of the late Robert Balfour Ramsay, Esq. of Balbirny.

— At his house, Infirmary Street, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Auchterlonie.

— At Holland Place, West St Vincent Street, Glasgow, Alexander Macdonald, Esq.

— At Jordanhill estate, island of Trinidad, Francis Brown, Esq. aged 30.

16. At Crossford, near Lanark, aged 69, Richard Vary, Esq. late Clerk of the Peace for the County of Lanark.

— At Edinburgh, in the 59th year of his age, Mr John Potts Halbert, late of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

— At Nantes, Miss Isabella Dennistoun Brown, daughter of the late Alex. Brown, Esq. merchant in Glasgow; and, at the same place, three hours before, her nephew, Walter, eldest son of Humphrey Ewing Macrae of Cathkin, Esq.

17. At Hoynton Street, Kensington. Alex. Murray, Esq. late of the Commissariat Department.

— At Kedgeree, Bengal, William And. Chalmer, Esq. Judge and Magistrate of Bhaugulpore, second son of James Chalmer, Esq. Abingdon Street, Westminster.

— At his house, Rose Street, Edinburgh, Mr John Chisholm, smith and ironmonger.

— At her house, Bristo Port, Edinburgh, Mrs Isabella Potts, relict of the late Mr Thomas Potts, merchant in Edinburgh.

— At Annan, Mrs Margaret Scott, spouse of John Dalgliesh, Esq. of Prestonfield.

18. At his house in Durham, highly respected, aged 73, Andrew Philip Skene, B.A. of New York, Esq. of Hallyards, in Fife, and Kilmacoe, Wicklow, Ireland, only son of the late Colonel Philip Wharton Skene of Skenesborough, United States, and of Hackleton, Northamptonshire, Governor of Crown Point and Ticonderago, North America. This gentleman was a descendant of the famous Sir William Wallace, and traces his descent from the year 1014, from the first Skene of Skene, according to tradition, a younger son of the (Donalds) Lords of the Isles. He also held a military commission in the British service above sixty years. His remains were interred in the Cathedral, on the 21st instant, and were borne to his vault, according to his request, by eight soldiers. A few weeks before his death, he requested the following epitaph to be placed on his tomb:—"Terra Filius in terram hic repositus."

— At Dundee, Mrs Jane Chalmers, relict of David Walker, Esq. of Palfield.

— At Bedford Place, Alloa, Mrs Agnes Wilson, spouse of Mr John Wilson, writer there, much regretted.

— Jean M'Kenzie, spouse of William Williamson, Esq. of Carnyle.

— Killed at Bhurtapore, Captain John Brown, of the 31st regiment of Bengal Native Infantry, at the early age of 34 years.

— Killed, at the storming of Bhurtapore, Captain Armstrong, of the 14th British infantry, eldest son of Lieut.-Colonel Armstrong, formerly of the 64th foot.

— At Portobello, Mrs Major Lyell, much lamented.

— At Selkirk, Margaret, daughter of the late Andrew Henderson, Esq. of Midgehope, in the 18th year of her age.

19. At Ayr, Mrs Mary Ross, wife of Dr W. Donaldson, physician in Ayr.

— At Edinburgh, Miss Isabella Shepherd, daughter of the late Rev. George Shepherd, minister of Newbattle.

— At his brother's house, 3, Mansfield Place, Edinburgh, Mr Richard Storrar, baker, Edinburgh.

20. At his house, in Bryanstone Street, London, D. W. Ruddiman, in the 70th year of his age, formerly in the service of

the Hon. East India Company, and physician to his Highness the Nabob of the Carnatic.

20. At Edinburgh, Mr Alex. Hay, brushmaker, in the 65th year of his age.

— At the house of her only surviving son, Robert Campbell, late chamberlain of Roseneath, in her 98th year. Mrs Jean Stewart, relict of the late Rev. William Campbell, minister of Kilchrenan and Dalavich, Argyllshire, and daughter of James Stewart, Esq. of Cluny, in the county of Perth, by Elizabeth; sister of Patrick Campbell, Esq. of Monzie, one of the Senators of the College of Justice. By all to whom this interesting and venerable lady was known, she cannot but be held in very pleasing remembrance. Of an accomplished mind, and extreme elegance of person and manners, she retained the perfect possession of all her faculties to the last hour of a life distinguished for wisdom and piety.

— At Kirkmaiden Manse, the Rev. James French, minister of that parish, in the 44th year of his age and 9th of his ministry.

— At Glasgow, Mr J. Dick, student of medicine, third son of the Rev. Dr Dick, Glasgow.

— At Belleville, Stranraer, Miss Anne Maxwell, fourth daughter of the late William Maxwell, Esq. of Ardwell.

— At Edinburgh, Miss Mary Stewart, third daughter of the deceased Robert Stewart, Esq. of Binny.

21. At his residence, Medloch Cottage, near Manchester, William Mitchell, Esq. in the 57th year of his age.

— At Mount Stuart, in the 21st year of her age, Gertrude Amelia Villiers Stuart, only daughter of the late Lord Henry and Lady Gertrude Stuart, of a rapid decline.

22. At her house, 16, Broughton Street, Edinburgh, Miss Helen Hay, relict of George Adinston of Careant.

23. At her house, Tavistock Place, London, Mrs Elizabeth Chisholm, late of Chisholm, Inverness-shire, aged 68.

— In Pitt Street, Portobello, Mrs Maria Maxwell, relict of the late Major Hamilton Maxwell of Ardwell.

— At Liverpool, on his way from Ame-

rica, aged 23 years, John, third son of Mr John Richardson, manufacturer, Edinburgh, much regretted.

23. At Belle Vue, near Dublin, the Right Hon. the Countess of Egmont, after a long and painful illness.

24. At Morebattle, Mr James Culdhartson, feuar there, in the 98th year of his age.

25. At Montrose, Henry Renny, Esq. in the 88th year of his age.

— At Fasington, Capt. Landles, R.N.

26. At Chelsea, in the 43d year of his age, Captain Richard Grant, on half pay 63d regiment.

— At Roddinghead, George Douglas, Esq. of Roddinghead.

— In Scymour Street, London, the Countess of Harcourt.

— At Edinburgh, Mr Robert Butterworth Runcorn, student of medicine, only son of the late Robert Runcorn, Esq. Manchester.

— At Warriston Crescent, the infant son of Mr Adams, wine merchant.

— On his passage from India, Mr Peter Rose M'Intosh, youngest son of the late Andrew M'Intosh, Esq. merchant in Forres.

27. At his house, York Place, Edinburgh, in the 84th year of his age, James White, Esq. formerly in the service of the Honourable East India Company.

— At her house, in George Street, Edinburgh, Miss Catharine Hope, daughter of the late Sir Archibald Hope of Craighall, Bart.

— At Edinburgh, Mrs Mary Brown, wife of the Rev. Dr Andrew Brown, one of the ministers of this city, and Professor of Rhetoric in the University.

— At Southfield, by Auchtermuchty, much and justly regretted by a numerous circle of friends and acquaintance, George Keltie, Esq. late tenant of Falklandwood, in the 74th year of his age.

— At Torbanehill, Mrs Bogle Smellic, of Torbanehill.

— At Valleyfield, Culross, in the 76th year of his age, James Stewart, Esq. of Glasgow. Few men have passed through so long a life with a more amiable character; in his heart there was no guile.

28. In the 51st year of his age, Mr Francis Laing, merchant, Newburgh.

— At Paisley, in the 33d year of his

age, after an illness of three days, Mr Alexander Paton, late cloth merchant there.

29. At Scalloway, Mrs Scott, of Scalloway, in the 66th year of her age, after a long and painful illness, which she bore with great patience and Christian resignation. Her extensive and unostentatious charity to the poor will long be remembered with gratitude, while her surviving family and friends can never forget the kindness of her heart, and her many other good qualities.

29. At Monkwood Mill, Mrs Marion Curry, aged 100, relict of Thomas M' Skimming of Traboch Mill. She had five children, forty grandchildren, and seventy-four great-grandchildren, and throughout her long life it is said she never tasted medicine.

— At Arundel, in the 80th year of her age, the Hon. Mrs Howard, relict of the late Henry Howard, Esq. and mother of Lord Howard of Effingham.

— At Aberdeen, Mr John Gill, advocate in Aberdeen, aged 32 years.

30. At Glasgow, John Wallace Hozier, Esq. second son of William Hozier, Esq. of Newlands.

31. At Dumfries, Mr Joseph Thomson, formerly solicitor before the Supreme Courts.

— At Cawen, France, Walter Dawes, youngest son of James Paterson, Esq.

— At Canisbay, in the Presbytery of Caithness, the Rev. James Smith, minister of that parish.

— At his house, in Berner's Street, London, of a short illness, John Campbell, Esq. the Accountant-General to the Court of Chancery. Mr Campbell was in the 75th year of his age. His complaint was an inflammation in the chest.

— At her father's house, No. 11, St Leonard's Hill, Edinburgh, Elizabeth, daughter of Patrick Davidson, writer.

— At Manse of Carnock, the Rev. Alexander Thomson, who had been minister of the parish for forty-five years. He died in the 69th year of his age.

— At Giffordbank, East Lothian, Mr William Gilbertson, factor to the Most Noble the Marquis of Tweeddale. His relations and friends will please accept of this notification of his death.

— At Queenston, Upper Canada, Wil-

helmina Denham, spouse of Francis Hall, Esq. civil engineer there, and daughter of the late Mr Thomas Denham, Registrar Office, Edinburgh.

31. In Bengal, Captain Archibald Montgomerie, late Commander of the Boglepore Hill Rangers, son of A. Montgomerie, Esq. formerly of the Bengal Civil Service.

Lately, At Beverley, in Yorkshire, Lord Arthur Paget, of the 7th Hussars, son of the Marquis of Anglesea.

— At Prome, in the Burman territory, Lieutenant Alexander Thomson, of the Bengal horse artillery, eldest son of Geo. Thomson of Fairlay.

— At Liverpool, Sir William Barton, Knt. one of the oldest merchants of that town engaged in the West India trade, and for many years principal of the firm of Messrs Barton, Irlam, and Higginson.

— In Seymour Street, Portman Square, London, Anne, widow of Admiral Sir James Wallace.

— In St Domingo, Mademoiselle Celie Petion, daughter of the late President of Hayti, in the 20th year of her age. Her loss has caused much sorrow to the inhabitants of Hayti, and will be severely felt by the poor, to whom she devoted much of her income.

— At Arcot, in the East Indies, Lieutenant George Cheape, of the 1st regiment of Madras cavalry, youngest son of John Cheape, Esq. of Rossie.

— At Woolbeding, Lady Robert Spencer, aged 76.

— At Paulang, in the Burman Empire, Captain Patrick Forbes, of his Majesty's 47th regiment, eldest son of Major Forbes, Stirling.

— At Annan, Margaret, relict of the late Captain Irving of Carse, aged 77 years.

FEBRUARY 1. At New Orleans, Mr Robert Bogle, merchant there, formerly of Glasgow.

— At Bombay, Lieut. Frederick A. Arnaud, of the 22d regiment of Native Infantry.

— At Tobago, near Panama, Captain James Ramsay, of the Columbian navy, eldest son of the late Rev. James Ramsay of Glasgow. The circumstance attending the death of this young officer

is peculiarly distressing, having been assassinated by his gunner, while asleep in bed, aboard of his own ship, the *Guayaquila*—the assassin instantly terminating his own existence.

1. At Haddington, Thomas Fairbairn, Esq. Sheriff-Substitute of Haddingtonshire.

— At the mains of Brighton, Hugh Maxwell, Esq. of Halkerton.

— At Gosforth House, near Newcastle, Charles John Brandling, Esq. M. P. for Northumberland.

2. At Berwick-upon-Tweed, Hannah, Lady of James Forster, Esq. of that town, in the 49th year of her age.

— At Leith, Mrs Jane Smith, Charlotte Street, aged 58.

— At Cove of Cork, Mr Robert Macfarlan, son of the late Andrew Macfarlan, Esq. of Auchrossan.

— At the York Hotel, Dover, Lieutenant Colonel Scott, late of the royal artillery.

— At Gairscaft, near Springkell, John Johnson, aged 92. He entered the service of the Springkell family upwards of seventy years ago; and since he has been unable to work, he has received a yearly allowance, and free house, from Sir John H. Maxwell. Lady Maxwell and the young ladies used frequently to visit the aged couple in their humble dwelling, and supply them with many comforts. He has been married sixty-seven years, and his partner (two years older than he was) still survives him. It is remarkable, that though they have lived so long together, this is the first time that death has entered their dwelling. Their eight children still survive them; and he has left children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, to the number of 120.

3. At Edinburgh, John Peat, Esq. S.S.C. aged 76.

— At the seat of Earl Howe, at Gopsall, in the 56th year of her age, the Countess of Cardigan.

4. At Dura House, Alexander Bayne, Esq. of Rires.

— At George's Place, Leith Walk, Mrs Agnes Blackie, wife of James Cheyne, Esq. merchant, Leith.

— At Rome, where he had gone for the benefit of his health, Lieutenant Wil-

James Wemyss Fraser, of the 44th regiment, youngest son of the late Mr John Fraser, Rhinow, Sutherlandshire.

5. At Dykehead, Mr Robert Richardson, late Provost of Lochmaben.

— At Peebles, James Ker, Esq. Provost of Peebles.

6. At Rome, John Hugh Maclean, Esq. younger of Ardgour.

— At Pathhead, Mrs Elizabeth Carse, relict of the late Mr Andrew Gordon, Preston, aged 81.

8. At Harrowgate, Mrs Charles Thomson, of Edinburgh.

14. At Greenock, Mrs Rosina Hunter, relict of the late James Hunter, Esq.

15. At Dalkeith, Mr E. Bell, Rector of the Grammar School there.

16. At Cheltenham, Major Frederick Corfield, formerly Deputy Military Auditor-General in Bengal.

— At Edinburgh, Mary, the wife of Ken. Treasurer, 10, Terrace, aged 61.

— At No. 2, Fettes Row, Edinburgh, Margaret Agnes, only daughter of Captain David Campbell, of the 98th regiment.

18. At Mamee Gally, Jamaica, Mrs Shand, wife of William Shand of Arnhall, Esq.

19. At Montrose, in the 25th year of her age, Helen, Hunter Taylor, second daughter of Mr William Taylor, London.

21. At her brother's house, Castle Street, Edinburgh, Miss Isabella Stevens.

23. The Right Hon. Elizabeth Harriet, Dowager Viscountess Warren Bulkeley.

25. At Lawrieston, Glasgow, in the 29th year of his age, Robert C. Graham Gordon, third son of Peter Gordon, writer.

— At his house, 227, High Street, Edinburgh, Mr John Kay, in the 84th year of his age.

— At his house, in George Street, Hanover Square, London, Viscount Carleton, aged 87. The title is extinct. His lordship was one of the Irish representative peers.

— At Falkirk, the Rev. Wm. Burns, in the 88th year of his age.

— At Maryfield, Ross-shire, the Rev. Donald Mackenzie, minister of Fodderty,

in the 58th year of his age, and 37th of his ministry.

25. At Caldra, Miss Helen Low, daughter of the late Alexander Low, Esq. of Laws, Berwickshire.

— At Laurencekirk, in the 65th year of his age, Alexander Gardiner, Esq. late Colonel of the Royal Montrose Volunteers—a man of superior attainments and fascinating manners—equally admired in the field and in the social circle. In the day of prosperity, his ear was ever open to the plaint of the poor, and his hand ever ready to relieve their wants.

26. At Edinburgh, Janet, only daughter of William Baird, Esq. late farmer of Lochend.

27. At her son's house, Dublin Street, Edinburgh, Mrs Ballantyne, late merchant in Kelso, aged 78.

— At Edinburgh, Ens. Walter Thomson, late of the 3d royal veteran battalion.

— After a long and painful illness, Miss Rebecca Shiells, Hope Park, Edinburgh.

28. At Dingwall, Donald Cameron, Esq. principal clerk of the peace, &c. for the counties of Ross and Cromarty, aged 74.

MARCH. At Hawal Bush, in the East Indies, Captain Alexander Durie, of the Honourable East India Company's service.

1. At St Thomas, Mr Archibald Galbraith.

— At Southford, Christina, third daughter of the late John Stenhouse, Esq. younger of Southford.

— Sir John Aubrey, Bart. D.C.L. and M.P. in his 86th year. Sir John Aubrey was Father of the House of Commons, having sat without intermission in eleven successive Parliaments.

— At Waterford, after a short illness, Mr Alexander Leifer, manager of the Provincial Bank of Ireland, there, and late accountant of the Stirling Bank.

2. Lord Downes, the Ex-Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, Ireland.

— At Drygrange, Susanna, youngest daughter of the late Archibald Tod, Esq. of Drygrange.

— At his seat of Moyhall, St David's,

Jamaica, Alexander Mackintosh, Esq. of Moyhall.

3. At Pwrychronon, near Conway, North Wales, Jane, only daughter of Sir David Erskine of Cambo, Bart.

4. At his father's house, 39, North Hanover Street, Edinburgh, deeply regretted by all who knew him, Mr A. P. Marshall, in his 29th year.

— At Balbardie House, Linlithgowshire, Rachel, third daughter of Alex. Marjoribanks, Esq. of Marjoribanks.

— At Leith, Mrs Margaret Lourie, relict of the late Mr H. D. Lang, merchant there.

— At St Roques, Mr M'Millan Jameson, M.D. late Surgeon General, royal artillery, aged 69.

— At Muirburn, James Alston, Esq. of Muirburn.

— At Dumfries, Mrs Gilchrist, sen. aged 86, relict of the late Jas. Gilchrist, Esq.

5. At Calcutta, Captain Patrick Dudgeon, of the 14th regiment of Bengal native infantry, and commandant of the Silhet local corps.

— At Kelton, Ninian Hair Scott, Esq. of Knockenstob. The deceased served in the American war, latterly as Captain of the 63d regiment, and was distinguished for his bravery and good conduct.

— At Inverary, Miss Bell MacLachlan, eldest surviving daughter of the late Arch. Bell MacLachlan, Esq. of Craigen-terne, Argyllshire.

— At Muirkirk, in the 84th year of her age, Mrs Janet Anderson, relict of Mr John Lapraick, late of Dalfram, well known to most of our readers as the intimate friend of Burns.

— At Stirling, Miss Helen Colquhoun, daughter of the late Robert Colquhoun, Esq. of Camstraddan.

— At Toulouse, Madame La Pouse, widow of the celebrated naturalist of that name, aged 80 years.

— At Inxion, aged 81, Mrs Helel Farquharson, relict of the late Thomas Mitchell, Esq.

6. At his house, 3, Great King Street, Edinburgh, Mr John Garioch.

— At 28, Broughton Place, Edinburgh, Margaret Ann, youngest daughter of the Rev. Dr David Ritchie, aged 12 years.

6. At Rosehall, Geo. Adam Graham, aged 21, second son of Mr Geo. Graham, jeweller.

— At his seat, Redgrave Hall, Suffolk, George Wilson, Esq. Admiral of the Red.

— The Hon. Colonel John Lindsay, brother of the late Earl of Balcarras.

— John Kerr, Esq. Provost of Dumfries, in the 54th year of his age, after an illness of fourteen days. The funeral was most numerously attended; according to a moderate calculation made by individuals capable of judging, there were fully 500; and the concourse of spectators of this melancholy scene is supposed to have amounted to no less than five thousand souls.

7. At King's Place, Leith Walk, Mrs Margaret Hedley, relict of the late Mr John King.

— At Aberdeen, Mr Archibald Tytler, merchant, in the 70th year of his age.

— At Edinburgh, Mrs Catharine Sommerville, in the 68th year of her age; and on the 16th instant, Mr William Gibson, jun. late merchant, Lawnmarket, Edinburgh, her husband, in the 66th year of his age—both much and justly regretted.

— At Pittenweem, Miss Katherine Anstruther, daughter of the late Sir Philip Anstruther, of Balcaiskie, Bart.

8. At Thurso, Wm. Henderson, Esq. of Scotscaid, Sheriff-substitute of the Shire of Caithness.

— At Elshieshields, Mrs Christian Dickson, spouse of J. E. Dickson, Esq. Elshieshields.

— At Glasgow, in the prime of life, and much and justly regretted, Mrs Eliza M'Queen, wife of Mr James M'Queen, South Wellington Place.

— At Grangemouth, Mrs Martha Wing, wife of John Selby, Esq. collector of canal dues.

9. At his house, West George Street, Glasgow, in the 59th year of his age, William Jamieson, Esq.

— At Mondaria, on the Bomba, coast, John Windsor Stuart, Esq. late captain of his Majesty's 20th regiment, and eldest son of Lord George Stuart.

10. At Paris, Mr Pinkerton, the distinguished writer on geography, at the age of 67. He was born in Edinburgh.

10. At 22, Drummond Place, Edinburgh, Eliza Roy, daughter of the late William Roy, Esq. of Nenthorn.

— At Allanfield, William G. V. Scott, son of Mr. Robert Scott, merchant, Leith.

11. At Crieff, Mrs Margaret Drummond, relict of the late Rev. Robert Stirling, minister of Crieff.

— Mark Howard, fourth son of Mr Orr, 13, Forth Street, Edinburgh.

— At Peterhead, Mrs Thomas Arbuthnot, of Nether Kinnmundy.

— At Dunfermline, Mrs Margaret Pearson, relict of the deceased Mr John Kerr, manufacturer there, in the 82d year of his age, much and justly regretted.

— On board the boats descending the river Irrawaddy, Lieut. Dugald Campbell, of the 1st regiment of Royal Scots.

12. At the Manse of Dysart, Mrs Christian Hardie, relict of the late Peter Brotherston, Esq. of Esk Mills, near Penicuik.

— At Southfield, Stirling, John Anderson, sen. Esq. late of the island of St Croix.

13. At Plains of Thornton, Ann Cooper; and three hours after, James Livingston, her husband; the former aged 53, and the latter 75. They were buried in the churchyard of Glamis, in one grave.

14. At Larkhill, Worcestershire, where he had gone for the education of his family, after a few days' illness, John Halliday Martin, Esq. major of the Kirkcudbright gentlemen and yeomanry cavalry, much and justly regretted by every member of the corps.

— At Edinburgh, Mr Joseph Brodie, of the house of Messrs Pitcairn, Brodie, and Co.

— At the Manse of Knockando, the Rev. Lachlan M'Pherson, aged 68 years.

15. At Montrose, at an advanced age, Mr Alexander Mearns, harbour-master.

— At Slamanman, after a long and painful illness, which he endured with exemplary patience and resignation, the Rev. James Robertson, minister of that parish; a man who will long be respectfully and affectionately remembered by his parishioners and by all who were intimately acquainted with him, for his unfeigned piety, the accuracy and extent of his literary and theological acquire-

ments, the singleness of heart with which he devoted himself to his pastoral duties, the truth, integrity, and sincerity, which adorned his whole character, the warmth of his affections, and the steadiness of his friendship.

15. At Belham, Mr Walter Oswald, late of Hallhill, parish of Collessie, Fife-shire.

16. At Magnera, Mrs Ann Mulhol-lano, at the advanced age of 122 years.

— At Halle, Professor Vater, the celebrated Orientalist.

— At Greenock, Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the Rev. John Dunn.

17. At Ely, Miss Elizabeth Dudding-stone, eldest daughter of the late James Duddingstone, Esq. of Saint Ford.

— At Kirtleton House, Dumfries-shire, David Niven, Esq. of Kirtleton.

— At Kirkaldy, Mrs Landale, sen.
— At her house, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, Miss Phebe Durham, daughter of the deceased John Durham, Esq. surgeon, Kirkaldy.

— At Forres, Mrs Grant, relict of the late Rev. Lewis Grant, minister of the gospel, Cromdale.

— At Edinburgh, Mrs Catharine Napier, wife of Macevay Napier, Esq. Professor of Conveyancing in the University of Edinburgh.

— At Stirling, aged 60, Thomas Littlejohn, Esq. late Provost of Stirling.

— At Derby, Lieut. George Castle, R.N. only surviving son of the late Samuel Castle, Esq. solicitor, Durham.

18. At Haddington, Georgina, youngest daughter of Mr Jas. Miller, printer.

— At Brora, in the 111th year of his age, Alexander Urquhart, late tidesman of the customs. This honest, but eccentric veteran, was born at Tain in the year 1715. Possessing the full use of his reasoning faculties, and his memory remaining unimpaired to the last, he was a living and faithful record of several interesting particulars regarding the memorable rebellion in 1745,—many of the leading characters of which, particularly the celebrated Colonel John Roy Stuart, he had frequently seen. It was not, however, in the sanguinary warfare where man is opposed to his fellow-man, that Sandy wielded his arms; he never at any period of his life was a soldier; but

he was a sportsman, acknowledged by those who were qualified to judge, of the first rate abilities—as cool, deliberate, and deadly a shot as ever took the heather.

18. At London, Mrs Jane Smith, wife of Andrew Paton, Esq. soap-manufacturer there.

— At Edinburgh, Mr William Stark, sen. builder.

— At Kendal, Mr Alexander Davidson, lecturer in natural philosophy and chemistry.

19. At Birnam House, near Crieff, Mr David Christie, exciseman, in the 30th year of his age.

— At Paisley, Mr Walter Henderson, merchant.

— At Balnabrieck, after a long illness, borne with Christian resignation, Mrs Betty Low, wife of Robert Colvill, Esq. farmer at Balnabrieck, aged 34.

— Mrs Guy, eldest daughter of the late Sir Francis Elliott, of Stobbs, in the county of Roxburgh, Bart.

20. At Whitethorn, Milnathort, Mr James Morrison.

— At Laurencekirk, aged 65, Mr John Low, pastor of the Berean congregation, much regretted.

— Mr George W. Kippen, son of the late Captain George Kippen, of the Hdn. East India Company's service.

— At Edinburgh, Ann, the infant daughter of William Macdowall, Esq. of Carruth.

21. At his house, St Vincent Street, Glasgow, Jas. Murdoch, jun. Esq. merchant.

— At Aberdeen, in the 56th year of his age, George Kerr, Esq. surgeon, after a protracted and severe illness, which he bore with his characteristic fortitude.

22. At the Mount, Dickenson Street, Manchester, Mrs Sarah Richardson, widow, aged 101 years. She retained her sight and memory to the last. She was grand, great grand, and great great grandmother to 153 descendants, fifty of whom are now living.

— At Balblair, in Sutherland, Thos. Craig, Esq. late of Barmuchity, near Elgin, aged 70.

— At Lathallan, William Lindesay, Esq. of Balmungie.

22. At Linlithgow, Mr John Fife, cloth-merchant there, much regretted.

23. At Dingwall, Mrs Barbara Munro, aged 80 years, relict of the deceased Geo. Munro, Esq.

— Rear-Admiral Prowse, C.B.

— At Portobello, Bain Whyt, only son of the Rev. Mr Glen.

24. At Plymouth, William Richard Smith, Esq. post captain in the royal navy.

— At Banff, Mrs Elizabeth M'Killigin, relict of James Sim, Esq. late of Mount Pleasant.

25. At his apartments, York Buildings, Mafy-le-bone, London, Dr John Gray, late physician to Haslar Hospital, aged 58.

— At the Manse of Berwick; at the age of 80, the Rev. James Thomson, minister of that parish.

— At Redhall, Mrs Inglis, wife of John Inglis, Esq. of Auchindinny.

— At her uncle's house, Great King Street, Edinburgh, Miss Alison Tweedie, daughter of the deceased Alex. Tweedie, late in Dreva.

26. At Kelso, Robert Turner, Esq. late royal military surveyor, aged 49.

— At Greenock, suddenly, Miss Jean M'Neill, eldest daughter of the late Jas. M'Neill, Esq. collector of customs at that port.

27. At Nairn, Mr James Falconer, merchant there, aged 82, much and justly regretted.

— At Cove, Jeffrey Irving, Esq. of Cove, in the 79th year of his age.

— At his house, Newton-on-Ayr, aged 67, Mr John Hunter, formerly one of the bailies of Newton.

— At the Manse of Cortachy, the Rev. John Gourlay, minister of the united parishes of Cortachy and Clova, in the 70th year of his age.

28. At Liverpool, Edward Airey, Esq. comptroller of his Majesty's customs at the port of Whitehaven.

— Suddenly, at Dumfries, Mr Edward Dawson, writer, aged 33.

— At Hutesontown, Glasgow, Mr James Corbett, merchant.

29. Suddenly, at Brainshaugh, Northumberland, Mr William Pickering, in the 65th year of his age.

29. At Edinburgh, Mrs Elizabeth Sparks, widow of the late Mr John Auchterlachie.

— At Stone House, Cumberland, John Richard, third son of Lieut.-Colonel Sir Hew Ross, K.C.B.

— At Gatehouse, Mr Wm. Stothart, aged 56.

— At Bridekirk village, suddenly, Lieut. Henry Stanley, brother-in-law of — Curwen, Esq. younger of Working-ton Hall, aged 51.

30. At Elgin, Miss Robina Gordon, daughter of the late Rev. Dr Lewis Gordon, minister of Elgin.

— At the Manse of Alvie, Mrs Charlotte Grant, spouse of the Rev. John Macdonald, minister of that parish.

— At Braehead House, Miss Margaret Howison Craufurd, eldest daughter of the Rev. James Howison M. Craufurd, of Braehead.

— At Bishop Middleham, in the county of Durham, Miss Jaminia Carnegie Napier, youngest daughter of the late Major-General the Hon. Mark Napier.

31. At Edinburgh, Miss Mary Ogilvie, youngest daughter of the late Alexander Ogilvie, Esq. of Auchiries.

— At Brechin, Alex. Ritchie, Esq.

— At Kirkwall, Thomas, youngest son of Thomas Pollocksen, Esq.

APRIL 1. At her house in George Street, Portman Square, London, Frances, the relict of Francis Constable, Esq. of Burton Constable, in the county of York.

— At Orwell, near Kinfross, Mrs Jas. Skelton.

— At Edinburgh, George Russell, of Inch, Esq. W.S.

— Suddenly, at his house in Portsburgh, Edinburgh, Mr Jas. Inglis, much regretted by his numerous friends and tenants.

3. At his mother's house, Stirling, at the early age of fourteen years, Mr William Graham, son of the late Captain Edward Graham, of the Hon. East India Company's Bengal artillery.

— At Edinburgh, James Bell, Esq. advocate.

— At 22, Windsor Street, Edinburgh, Cecil, youngest son of Samuel Joseph, Esq.

3. At his house, Smith's Place, Leith Walk, in the 63d year of his age, and the 38th of his ministry, the Rev. Thomas Aitchison, pastor of the first United Associate Congregation, Leith.

4. At Lothian Street, Edinburgh, Mrs Jane Ross, wife of Mr William Ganton, merchant, and, on the 6th, his infant son.

— At a very advanced age, Henrietta, relict of the late George Maxwell, Esq. of Carruchan.

— At Leslie, Mrs Ireland, aged 79. She enjoyed her faculties to the last.

— At Dreva, Mr John Tweedie, jun. writer in Edinburgh, a young man of great promise, and deeply regretted by his relations and acquaintances.

5. At the mill of Arntully, parish of Kinclaven, Mr Thomas Stewart, in the 101st year of his age. This respectable man enjoyed through life an uncommon portion of good health.

— At Mayfield, May Ferguson Robertson, third daughter of the late James Robertson, Esq. W.S.

— At Leith, Charles John, eldest son of Lieut. Charles Smith, R.N.

6. At Shaftesbury House, Bayswater, William Davidson, Esq. in the 69th year of his age.

— At Montrose, after a lingering illness, borne with meekness and resignation, Mrs Henry Westmacott, in her 39th year, leaving a husband and nine children to deplore her untimely loss.

— Mr Alexander Maclauchlan, son of the late William Maclauchlan, Esq. of Auchintroig.

— At Glasgow, Major Alex. McKay, Laggan, Islay.

— At Janpora, George Heyne, Esq. assistant hospital surgeon and assistant assay master, Madras.

7. At Portobello, Joseph Williamson, Esq. principal clerk of tunds, aged 82.

— At Binacre Hall, Suffolk, in his 81st year, Sir Thomas Gooch, Bart.—He is succeeded by his eldest son, Thomas Sherlock, M.P. for Suffolk.

— At Elie, Mr Wm. Walker, tanner.

— At Melville Mill, Lasswade, Mr Alexander Brown, aged 85 years. During the whole course of his life, he never slept a night out of the village.

7. At Duke Street, Leith, Mr Anthony Laird, cooper and fish-curer there.

— At Edinburgh, Robert Beaton, youngest son of W. A. Lawrie, W.S.

8. At Edinburgh, Catherine Ann Bennett, widow of the late Captain James Nicolson, R.N.

— At Aberdeen, Convener John Webster, in the 84th year of his age.

9. At North St James's Street, Edinburgh, Margaret, youngest daughter of the late Mr James Saunders, W.S. and wife of Mr Thomas Beveridge, writer, Edinburgh.

— At Burdales, Mrs Chrichton, aged 56 years, much and justly regretted by her friends, and a numerous circle of acquaintances. Her loss will be severely felt by the poor.

— In London, Lieutenant-General Philip Kearney Skinner.

10. At Barrosa Street, Perth, Miss Barbara Marshall.

— In the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, of typhus fever, caught in the discharge of his duty, Mr Samuel Gordon, physicians' clerk.

— At Pau, in the South of France, Mr Andrew Kelly, second son of Wm. Kelly, Esq. Glasgow.

— At Ann Street, Stockbridge, Edinburgh, Christina Hogarth, fourth daughter of Mr Alexander Ballantyne.

— At his house, Crieff, Mr John Drummond, cattle-dealer, aged 64 years.

— At Newtonlees, near Dunbar, aged 76, Mr Grieve Wilson.

— At Keith, Mrs Mary Murray Grant, relict of James Gordon, Esq. late surgeon in Keith, and daughter of the late John Grant of Gallovie, Esq.

11. At Edinburgh, Anne Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Col Macdonald, Esq. W.S.

— At Montrose, in the 80th year of her age, Mrs Milne, relict of the late Bailie Andrew Milne.

— At London, the Hon. Mrs Boyce, widow of the Hon. Charles Boyd, and daughter of the deceased Alexander Lockhart, Esq. Lord Covington, one of the Senators of the College of Justice.

— At Edinburgh, the Rev. Duncan Forbes, M.D.

— At Newton Don, near Kelso, after a very short illness, occasioned by a spas-

modic affection of the stomach, Sir Alexander Don, Bart. M.P. of Newton Don.

12. At Aberdeen, Mr Hugh Cochran, in the 83d year of his age.

— At Hawick, Walter Haddon, grocer and spirit-dealer.

— At Lanark, Captain John Tod.

13. At Edinburgh, in the 79th year of her age, Mrs Helen Wait, relict of Mr John Tait, farmer in Roxburgh West Mains.

— At her house, 28, Gayfield Square, Edinburgh, Mrs Janet Feggo, widow of the late George Ireland, Esq.

14. At her house, in Stanhope Street, May Fair, London, in the 86th year of her age, the Right Hon. Philadelphia Hannah, relict of the late Thomas Viscount Cremorne, and Baron Dartrey, of the kingdom of Ireland. Her ladyship was the grand-daughter of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, North America, and was born in its capital of Philadelphia, after which city she was named.

— At the Manse of Kintail, the Rev. Roderick Morison, minister of Kintail, in the 75th year of his age, and 47th of his ministry.

15. At Minnive, Mr Andrew Hunter, who, for upwards of forty years, has been an elder of the parish of Glencairn. On the 10th of February last he completed his 92d year.

— At Dundonnell House, Ross-shire, Kenneth Mackenzie, Esq. of Dundonnell.

16. At Norton Place, Edinburgh, Mr John Nicolson, aged 48.

— At No. 48, Rose Street, Edinburgh, Mrs Forrest, in the 87th year of her age.

— At Mains of Letham, parish of St Vigeans, in the 83d year of his age, Mr Alex. Fullerton, farmer there.

— At his seat of Nathill, Fifeshire, John Bruce, Esq. of Grangehill and Falkland, in the 82d year of his very active life.

17. At Gallowberry, John Corrie, Esq. of Gallowberry.

— At Leith, Mr William Hunter, tide surveyor of Customs there.

— At 13, North Hanover Street, Glasgow, Peter Buchanan, Esq. of Auchmar.

17. At the Manse of Muthill, the Rev. John Russell, who, for upwards of sixteen years, ably and faithfully discharged the laborious duties of the ministry in that extensive parish.

— Aged 67, the Rev. David M'Indoe, 36 years minister of the Scotch church in Groat Market, Newcastle.

— At Somerset Park, Liguanea, St Andrews, Jamaica, Mary, infant daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Rose, of the Portuguese service, and at the same place, on the 22d, Rachael Cumming, youngest daughter of the late James Waddell, Esq.

18. At his house, in Minto Street, Newington, Edinburgh, Thomas Riddell, younger of Camiestown.

— At Edinburgh, Miss Isabella Wedderburn Scrymgeour, daughter of Henry Wedderburn, of Wedderburn and Birkhill, Esq.

— At Edinburgh, Mrs S. C. Campbell, daughter of the late James Ramsay, Esq. Accomptant-General of Excise, and relict of the late Major John Campbell, of 76th regiment of foot.

19. At an advanced age, the Right Rev. Dr Milner, Bishop of Castabala, and Vicar Apostolic of the Midland districts.

— At Gateside, near Paisley, William Burns, Esq.

— At Ardoch Pen, St Ann's, Jamaica, Mr James Coulter Stuart, youngest son of the late Captain Stuart of Dullatur.

22. At London, Mr Charles Inderwick, Tuffton Street, Westminster.

24. At Kirkdale, Ramsay Hannay, Esq.

25. At her house, in St Ann's Yards, Mrs Margaret M'Niven, widow of Mr Robert Playfair, writer, Edinburgh.

— At Orkee, Miss Helen Low, daughter of the late James Low of Beadenurquhart.

28. At Girvan, the Rev. Thos. Thomson, minister of the United Secession Church.

— At Craignish Castle, Jn. K. Campbell, Esq., writer to the signet, son of Archibald Campbell, Esq. of Jura.

29. In Jamaica, Alexander, second son of the late Robert Brown, W.S.

30. At his house, in Fisherrow, Geo.

Young, Esq. one of the magistrates of Musselburgh.

30. Suddenly, at Musselburgh, Mr Francis Emslie, late factor for the Earl of Wemyss and March.

— At his lodgings, James's Square, after a few days' illness, D. J. Stuart, Esq. apothecary to the forces.

MAY 1. At Buxton, Mrs Bromby, formerly of the theatre royal, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Carlisle, Lancaster, Buxton, &c.

— At Edinburgh, Miss Mary Scott, daughter of the late Arch. Scott, Esq. of Rossie.

— At his house, Meadow Place, Edinburgh, Hugh Graham, Esq. late of Antigua.

— At Borgue House, Mrs Blair, wife of David Blair, Esq.

— At Caldera, Miss Charlotte Low, daughter of the late Alexander Low, Esq. of Laws.

2. At Inverury, Miss Elizabeth Anderson, youngest daughter of the late Mr James Anderson, merchant in Banff.

3. At Morningside, Margaret Buchanan, infant daughter of A. S. Crawford, Esq.

— At No. 6, Maitland Street, Lieut. Robert Balderston, 4th regiment Bengal native infantry, third son of the late Wm. Balderston, Esq. writer to the signet.

— At Kinloch, Fifeshire, Mrs Agnes Barclay, spouse of Mr Andrew Thomson of Kinloch, aged 77 years.

— At Edinburgh, Mr Geo. Stephen, founder.

4. At Knockbay, near Campbelltown, Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel John Porter of Knockbay.

— At Newton of Skene, Major William Skene, aged 70.

5. James Drummond, third son of Mr Orr, 13, Forth Street.

— At Mellican, Caroline Jamima, infant daughter of Sir Charles Leslie, Bart.

— At Calcutta, Henry P. M. Gordon, Esq. of the Hon. East India Company's civil service, second son of John Gordon, Esq.

6. At Greenhill Bank, near Edinburgh, Miss Janet Ewart, youngest daughter of Dav. Ewart, Esq. of the Chancery office.

6. On her passage from Calcutta to England, Mrs Boyd, widow of James Watson Boyd, Esq. of the Hon. East India Company's service, on the Bengal establishment.

7. At St Helena, on his return from India, Lieut. Gabriel Murray Home, of the Bengal establishment.

8. At Ballyshannon, near Castlewellan, Samuel Cumming, aged 112. He enlisted in 1734, and served in various campaigns with the most distinguished bravery. The amount of pension which he has received from government since his being discharged as unfit for service, is said to have been L.1323, 2s. He retained his mental faculties, and even his eye-sight, until a few days before his decease.

9. At 21, Melville Street, John, second son of Robert Robertson, Esq. of Pendergust.

— At London, Dr Alexander Russell, late of Calcutta.

10. At Edinburgh, Mrs Helen Baillie, daughter of the late Lord Polkemmet, one of the senators of the College of Justice.

— At No. 48, Frederick Street, Margaret, eldest daughter of the late John Elder, Esq. one of the depute-clerks of Session.

— At Edinburgh, Mr Hugh Mitchell, late fisher, Edinburgh.

— At Letham, Willhelmina, infant daughter of William Jaffray, Esq. of Letham.

— At his house, in Crieff, Mr M'Intyre of Glenartney.

11. At Dunfermline, Mr Robert Hutcheon, writer there, aged 68.

— At her house, George Street, Miss Dirom, daughter of the late Alexander Dirom, Esq. of Muireask, Aberdeen.

— At Nicolson Square, Mrs Isobel Jamieson, relict of Wm. Renton, Esq.

— Mrs Upham Cochrane, wife of Mr Johnstone, Southfield.

12. At Leith, Mr David Mure, agent there for the Commercial Banking Company of Scotland.

— At 5, Salisbury Road, Newington, Thomas Pender, senior, lately comptroller of stamp duties for Scotland.

— At 72, Queen Street, Mrs Ann Pa-

terson, wife of Mr D. McLean, British Hotel.

13. At Falkirk, Mr John Wardrop, surgeon there.

— At Cupar-Fife, Colonel David Boswell, late of the 63d regiment.

— At Dysart, Mrs Murray, relict of Mr William Murray, wine merchant, Canongate, aged 90.

15. At Abbotsford, Lady Scott.

— At Edinburgh, Mrs Christian Reid, relict of James Bertram, Esq. of Belfield.

— At Morningside, Mr Thomas G. Meldrum, of the Crown hotel; and, on the 28th of the same month, his father, Mr William Meldrum, late of the Bell inn, Kirkaldy.

16. At Newton Stewart, the Rev. Jas. Black, minister of Penninghame, in the 72d year of his age, and 32d of his ministry.

— At Beliff, near Kaluga, to which place she was going, from Taganrok, lamented by all who had the happiness to know her, her Majesty the Empress Dowager Elizabeth of Russia. The health of this universally beloved Princess had been much impaired, especially within the last two months; the most just grief at the irreparable loss which she had sustained in the winter had broken her heart. Her Majesty, before her marriage the Princess Louisa Maria Augusta, was the second daughter of the hereditary Prince Charles Louis of Baden, who died in 1801; she was born the 24th of January 1779, and married in 1793.

17. At her house, Gayfield Square, Mrs Margaret Andrew, widow of Mr Adam Matheson, of the Customhouse, Edinburgh.

18. At Edinburgh, Mr William Fraser, eldest son of the late Mr Francis Fraser, S.S.C.

— At his house in Duke Street, Westminster, the Right Hon. Sir Archibald Macdonald, late Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer.

— At Dublin, Mrs Jessie Magee, wife of Robert Magee, Esq. and daughter of Richard Prentice, Esq. Prince's Street, Edinburgh.

19. At Lathrisk House, Fifeshire, Mrs Jean Dobie, aged nearly 100 years.

19. At Toftcombs, Biggar, Margaret, youngest daughter of James Gladstone, Esq.

— In Piccadilly, London, Lady Mary Anne Primrose, second daughter of the Earl of Rosebery.

— At the Manse of North Berwick, Robert Balfour, eldest son of the Rev. Robt. Balfour Graham, minister of North Berwick.

— At Exeter, on the 19th ult. Quentin M'Adam, Esq., of Craiggengillan.

20. Off Cuba, Mr James Morice, master of his Majesty's ship Pylades, aged 23, youngest son of the late Mr James Morice, manufacturer, Aberdeen.

21. At Bourdeaux, Mary Catharine, only daughter of the late Masterton Robertson, Esq. of Inches.

— At Lauriston, Mrs Howden, sen.

22. At High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, in his 19th year, Mr Thomas Smith, of Pembroke College, Oxford, son of the late James Smith, Esq. Edinburgh.

23. Mr David Hood, writer, Glasgow. He was unfortunately drowned while bathing in the sea off Springfield, near Gourrock.

— At West Kirk Manse, Margaret Anne, youngest daughter of the Rev. David Dickson.

— At Dunbar, Mr James Simpson.

25. At Govan, Mr Robert Austin, merchant, Glasgow.

— At Keir Manse, the Rev. James Keyden, minister of the parish of Keir.

26. At Petersburgh, Lady Strangford, wife of the English Ambassador at that court.

— At Portobello, Colin Matheson, infant son of D. C. Cameron, Esq.

23. At Manor Manse, Janet, second daughter of the Rev. Wm. Marshall.

29. At Milford Haven, on board the Mary Hope, Henry, the infant son of Lieut.-General Sir Thomas Brisbane, K.C.B.

31. At Stanraer, Euphemia, aged nine years, eldest daughter of Mr James H. Ross, W.S.

— At Broomrigg, East Lothian, Mr George Hay, formerly farmer at Pilton, Mid Lothian, and Good Hope, Dumfriesshire.

31. At her house, St Andrew Square, Mrs General Forbes.

— At Waterloo, Decosta, the celebrated peasant, who was compelled to act as guide to Buonaparte, in the memorable battle of June 18th.

Lately, At 67, Great King Street, Edinburgh, Mrs Janet Dewar, relict of Alex. Dewar, Esq.

— At his house, Weymouth Street, London, the Hon. Augustus Phipps, commissioner of Excise.

— At Plymouth, Lieutenant-Colonel Westropp, royal marines.

— At Hot-wells, Bristol, Miss Mary Home, niece of the late Alexander Home, Esq. of Whitfield.

— At Gowan Bank, Mr John Hamilton, jun. timber-merchant in Glasgow.

— At Cairniehill, Fife, Mr Robert Rymer, late merchant in Edinburgh.

— In Africa, Captain Pearce and Dr Morrison, who accompanied Capt. Clapperton to the coast of Africa, for the purpose of proceeding into the interior of that continent.

JUNE. At Jubnah, Lieutenant and Adjutant Richard Johnstone Bird, 8th Madras native infantry.

— On his passage from Rangoon to Madras, Lieut. B. H. Currie, of the 28th regiment Madras native infantry.

1. James Colin, son of Captain Frederick Campbell, late of the 42d regiment of foot.

2. At Merchiston Bank, Mrs Clarke, of Comrie.

— At Surgeon Square, Mr Alexander Fairley, formerly of Dunfermline.

3. At London, the Right Hon. Lord Dorchester.

— At his house, in George Square, William Dymock, Esq. writer to the signet.

— At Lanark, Mrs Wilson, widow of Mr James Wilson of Whitburn, merchant.

4. At Fruitfield, William Mack of Fruitfield, Esq. writer in Airdrie.

5. At Craigpark, Louisa, youngest daughter of James Mackenzie, Esq.

— At her house, Great King Street, Mrs Katherine Milley, widow of Mr Alex. Simpson, jun. of the Royal Bank, Edinburgh.

5. At West Linton, Mr Robt. Somerville, farmer.

— At Annatto Bay, St George's, Jamaica, Mr William Tait, youngest son of the late Charles Tait, Esq. sheriff-substitute of Aberdeenshire.

— At the house of Sir George Smart, London, in his 40th year, the celebrated musical composer, Carl Maria Freyherr Von Weber.

6. At Crieff, Mrs Christian Wright, relict of Mr Thomas M'Comish, distiller there.

— At Sunbridge, in Kent, Mrs Sarah Hay Paterson Wyatt, wife of Thomas Wyatt, Esq.

7. At Orchill, Mrs Gillespie Graham of Orchill.

— At Claremont Street, Edinburgh, Miss Margaret Thomson, eldest daughter of the deceased John Thomson of Prior Letham, Esq.

8. At 25, West Lauriston, Mrs Clementina Cunningham, wife of Mr Simon Cunningham, Edinburgh.

— At Montrose, Jane, eldest daughter of the Rev. John King.

— At Ballyshannon, Ireland, Samuel Cuning, aged 112 years.

— Near Llangolen, Denbighshire, Henry Adolphus Chessborough, son of Alexander Falconer, Esq. of Falcon Hall, near Edinburgh.

9. Lieut Askew, of the Royal North British dragoons.

12. At Dunfermline, Mr Robert Laurie, soap-manufacturer.

— At Midshiells, Archibald Douglas, Esq. of Adderstone.

— At Montrose, Janet, the infant daughter of the Rev. Dr Paterson.

— At her house, Keir Street, Miss Helen Greig.

— Drowned at Bombay, while imprudently bathing in a fast ebbing tide, Cadet Henry Dolphin.

13. At her house, Farm Street, Berkeley Square, London, Annabella, widow of Count-General James Lockhart, of Lee and Carnwath.

— At Flimby, in Cumberland, Miss Beatrix Hunter, eldest daughter of the late James Hunter, Esq. of Frankfield.

14. On board the Alfred East Indianman on the return voyage from Bombay and China, Surgeon Edmund Moffat, se-

cond son of Mr Moffat, 28, James Square, Edinburgh.

14. At Grahamsstoun, near Falkirk, Mr Henry Swinton Miles, youngest son of Mr Robert Miles, shipmaster.

— At Dalkeith, the Rev. James Fort, late rector of the academy of Fortrose.

15. At Dumfries, Mrs Edgar, in consequence of the severe injury she sustained by the breaking down of a coach at Holywood village.

— At Edinburgh, Mr William Hutchison, builder.

— At Bernard Street, Leith, Mrs Euphemia Fairgrieve, wife of Mr Thomas Buchan.

— At Paisley, aged 86, Mrs Jean Smith, relict of the late James Smith, timber-merchant, Brownlands.

17. At Héynes, Bedfordshire, the Right Hon. Henry Frederick Thynne, Lord Carteret, brother of the late, and uncle of the present, Marquis of Bath. His lordship is succeeded in his title and estates by his nephew, Lord George Thynne, now Lord Carteret.

— At his house, No. 9, Hill Street, Edinburgh, John Smith, Esq. late of the Hon. East India Company's service.

18. At Chelsea, in the 75th year of his age, Captain William Keith, late of the 23d foot, or Royal Welsh fusiliers.

— At her father's house, No. 2, York Place, Miss Elizabeth M'Kean.

— At Dalkeith, Mrs Janet Pringle, relict of the late Mr Archibald Park of Windymains.

— At Hillhousefield, Catherine, youngest daughter of Mr John Galloway, shipowner, Leith.

19. Here, Mr John Peter, late British consul for the Netherlands.

— At Edinburgh, after a few days' illness, Hector Frederick M'Neil, Esq. of Gallochilly, Argyllshire.

— At Dunblane, Miss Eliza S. Graham.

20. At London Place, Hackney, near London, from the effects of the Arracan fever, Lieut. James Sinclair, of the 10th regiment of Native infantry, sixth son of the Right Honourable Sir John Sinclair, Bart.

— At Canaan Grove, William, infant son of Robert Dunlop, Esq. W.S.

— At Campie, William, youngest son, of North Dalrymple, Esq.

21. At London, Charlotte Frederica Mary, eldest daughter of Sir Robert Wilson, M.P. aged 27 years.

— At Glasgow, Mr Robert Monteith, jun. eldest son of the late Adam Monteith, Esq. merchant in Glasgow.

— At her house, in London Street, Mrs Sprot, relict of James Sprot, Esq.

22. At Swansea, South Wales, aged 90 years, John Mackintosh, Esq. sometime merchant in London, second son of the deceased Aeneas Mackintosh of Farry.

— At the Manse of Kirkmichael, Dumfriesshire, Mrs Amelia Rollo Irving, wife of the Rev. James Smail, minister of that parish.

— At Ayr, David Ewan, Esq. aged 82, formerly one of the bailies of Ayr.

23. At Barochan Castle, Mrs Fleming, widow of Malcolm Fleming, Esq. of Barochan.

— At 10, Gayfield Square, Barbara Home, youngest daughter of John Paterson, Esq.

— At his house, Stratford Place, London, Major-General Robt. Haldane, C.B. in the service of the Hon. East India Company.

— At his house, No. 104, West Bow, Edinburgh, Mr Wm. Scott, pewterer.

24. At Pear Place, Berkshire, Mr Jas. Stein.

— At his house, in Ramsay Garden, Edinburgh, James Bremner, Esq. solicitor of stamps, and preses of the Society of Solicitors before the Supreme Courts in Scotland.

— At his house, in Elm Row, John Grant, Esq. late collector of Excise.

— At Moss-side, near Bathgate, Mr Robert Russel, merchant, Edinburgh.

25. At Leslie, in Fife, James Malcolm, Esq. Craigend, second son of the late Sir John Malcolm, Bart. Balbeadie and Grange.

— At Kensington, after a few days' illness, in the 81st year of her age, Mrs Mattocks, late of Covent Garden theatre.

— At the residence of his uncle, General Campbell, Priory, St Andrews, Wm. Campbell, Esq. assistant-surgeon, 6th or Enniskillen Dragoons.

26. At his residence, Wells, Somersetshire, in the 84th year of his age, John Holloway, Esq. Admiral of the Red.

26. At Edinburgh, Mrs Margaret Biggar, relict of Mr James Milne, tanner in Edinburgh.

— At Lochyee, near Dundee, Miss Helen Tait, daughter of the late William Tait, Esq.

— At 17, Elder Street, Margaret Poole, second daughter of Mr Matthew Walker, wine-merchant.

27. At Grangetoll-field, in her 71st year, Mrs Katharine Dunbar, relict of Mr Robert Scott, late of the Excise, Haddington.

28. At Dunse, Captain John Bell of Ninewar.

— At Fort-George, very suddenly of apoplexy, Lieutenant John Cooper, of the 78th Highlanders.

— At Edinburgh, Mrs Agnes Sheels, wife of Mr William Moffat, apothecary, Nicolson Street.

— At Sierra Leone, Mr John Boog, surgeon.

29. At Millbank, near Douglas Mill, Mrs Gillespie, in her 82d year.

— At Coldinghame Manse, Berwickshire, Mr William Landell, supervisor of Excise.

— At Edinburgh, Jane Murray, eldest daughter of Mr John Johnstone, junior, Royal Circus.

— At Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Wilson, writer, Dunfermline.

— At Portobello, in the 80th year of his age, Wm. Marshall, Esq. plumber in Edinburgh.

30. On his voyage from China, Captain Thomson, of the East India ship Henry Porcher.

— At sea, homeward bound from Bombay, Robert Ainslie Walker, assistant-surgeon in the East India Company's ship Edinburgh, only son of Mr Walker, Cousland Park.

— Mrs Helen Murray, wife of Mr Alexander Black, surgeon, High Street.

— At Woodbine Cottage, Trinity, Mrs Scott, relict of William Scott, Esq. of Trinity.

— At Green Park Place, Bath, Mary, Dowager Countess of Kintore.

Lately, At Mandivic, in India, at the early age of 26 years, Patrick Macdonnell, Esq. M.D. a native of Glenmoriston in Inverness-shire.

— Suddenly of apoplexy, Robert Al-

bion Cox, Esq. alderman of London, who had the trial with Mr Kean.

JULY 1. At the Manse of Ecclesmachan, in his 23d year, Mr James Hendersen, son of the late Rev. John Henderson, minister of Queensferry.

— At Leeds, Lieutenant Geo. Teesdale, of the King's Dragoon Guards, in his 17th year, only child of Lieutenant-Colonel Teesdale, of that regiment.

2. At Woolwich, Jane, eldest daughter of Colonel Sir Alexander Dickson, royal artillery, K.C.B.

— And. Stein, Esq. of Hatcnburn.

— At Tanachy, near Forres, Major-General William Grant, aged 78.

— At Borrowston Mains, Grace Ross, wife of the Rev. David Fleming, minister of Carriden.

3. At Edinburgh, Anne Ross, infant daughter of Thomas Corrie, Esq. writer to the signet.

4. At his residence, in Virginia, in the 78th year of his age, Mr Jefferson, late President of the United States; and on the same day, the late President Adams. It is a most singular coincidence, that those two venerable personages should have paid the debt of nature on the same day, and that the 50th anniversary of that independence which they so essentially contributed to achieve.

— At Mifflin County, United States, William Ross, aged 109 years.

— At Bengal, Lieutenant Joseph William Colquhoun, 32d Bengal native infantry, son of Lieutenant-Colonel Colquhoun, George's Square.

5. At Aungabad, in consequence of injuries received by falling with his horse, Mr Charles C. Cheyne, of his Highness the Nizam's medical establishment, aged 25.

— At Highwood, Middlesex, of apoplexy, brought on by a long residence in India, Sir Stamford Raffles, in the service of the Hon. the East India Company, late Lieut. Governor of Bencoolen and Singapore.

— At his house, No. 25, Royal Circus, Mr John Johnstone, jun. solicitor in the Supreme Courts.

— At Edinburgh, Mr Adam Shaw, late post-master.

6. At Langton Grange, near Darlington, Jane, wife of Captain Watts, R.N.

and youngest daughter of the late Geo. Waldie, Esq. of Hendersyde Park, Roxburghshire,—distinguished by uncommon literary talents, and by her fine original paintings from nature, which commanded peculiar admiration in the exhibitions of the Royal Academy at Somerset House, and were ranked with the works of the first artists of the day. Her humility and modesty invariably prevented her from claiming the honours due to her genius. Her brilliant talents and attainments—but, above all, her unobtrusive virtues—were fully known only to the friends for whose happiness they were exerted, and by whom her entirely lost will ever be deplored.

6. At Haddington, Margaret Shireff, widow of the Rev. Robert Scott.

— At Craigielands, John, youngest son of William Younger, Esq.

— At his house, in the New Road, opposite the Regent Park, London, aged 75, Mr John Farquhar, the late owner of Fonthill Abbey. He went to bed at his usual hour, between ten and eleven o'clock, in good health, and when the servant took breakfast to him in the bedroom, at eight o'clock in the morning, as was his custom, he found Mr Farquhar a corpse in his bed. He was unmarried. His fortune is said to exceed a million and a half, in possessions, money in the funds, and capital in trade.

— At his house, St Andrew's Square, James Bryce, Esq. surgeon.

7. At Berne, Switzerland, Lieutenant-General Sir Manley Power, K.C.B. and K.T.S.

— Mr John Crawford, shipowner, Inverkeithing.

— At Bankhead, near Leven, Mrs Alison Mitchell, wife of Mr William Balfour, Bankhead.

8. At his house, 85, Great King Street, Mr George Forsyth, builder.

9. At Aberdour, Mrs Jean Robertson, widow of John Robertson, Esq. writer in Edinburgh.

— At Barnby Moor, the Right Hon. Lady Saltoun.

10. At No. 7, Dundas Street, Mrs Margaret Farquharson, wife of Alexander Cleghorn, Esq. of the Customs.

— Mr David Durward, grocer, Cassels' Place, foot of Leith Walk.

10. At Brighton, Joseph Green, Esq. late of Jamaica.

— At Troup House, Francis Garden Campbell, of Troup and Glenlyon.

— At Murrayfield House, Mr William Lamborn.

11. At Dunfermline, Mr John Wilson, sen. manufacturer there.

12. At her house, Walker Street, Edinburgh, Elizabeth, relict of General Colin Mackenzie, and third daughter of the late Roderick Mackenzie, Esq. of Redcastle.

13. At Portobello, Capt. James Maclean, of the Argyllshire regiment.

14. At Llangollen, North Wales, Louisa E. Robertson, daughter of the late Captain T. Robertson, 90, George Street, Edinburgh.

15. At Carmarthen, in Wales, on his way to London, the Marquis of Waterford. He is succeeded in his titles by his eldest son, the Earl of Tyrone, now in his 16th year.

— At Edinburgh, Mr Alex. Watson, of the firm of Watson, Reid, and Co. coach and cart makers, King's Stables.

17. At Drummelzier Place, Thomas, youngest son of the late Mr John Pretsell, Drummelzier.

— At Flotbeck Nursery, near Ham-
burgh, Mrs. Mary Richmond, relict of Mr James Booth.

— At his house, in Couper Street, Leith, Whiteford Smith, Esq. Among various legacies, he left the sum of £100, to be applied for promoting the education of the children in his native parish of Stenness, in Orkney.

18. Margaret, second daughter of Mr William Lindesay, merchant, Leith, aged 16 years.

20. At Cacerabank, Selkirkshire, Mrs Jean Ballantyne, relict of the Rev. W. Grieve.

— At Stenhouse, Mr John Brown, surgeon, South Fort Street, Leith, eldest son of Mr Thomas Brown, of the Customs, Leith.

— At St Andrews, Mr David Berwick, farmer and grazier.

21. At Otterburn, Roxburghshire, in the 84th year of his age, Dr James Wilson.

22. At Garvaid, Andrew Grieve, in the

91st year of his age, the oldest male in the parish at the period of his death.

23. At Tulibole, Lady Moncrieff Wellwood.

— At his house, Tolbooth Wynd, Leith, Mr Alex. M'Laren, shipowner there.

24. At Law of Craig, Mr James Anderson, farmer.

— At Catsfield, in Sussex, Miss Margaret Logie, late of Gabriel's Road, Edinburgh, daughter of Andrew Logie, Esq. surveyor of the Customs, Montrose.

25. Charles, infant son of George Mercer, Esq. of Gorthy.

— George Cunningham of Harlaw, aged 79.

— At Anstruther, Mr Robert Bow, session-clerk for the city of Edinburgh.

— At Meadow Place, Anne, the infant daughter of Dr Irving.

— At Orange Grove barracks, Trinidad, Lieutenant Clarkson, of the 9th regiment.

— At New York, in the 74th year of her age, Catherine, daughter of the late Earl of Stirling, and relict, successively, of Colonel William Duer, and of William Neilson, Esq.

26. Adam, youngest son of Mr David Wylie, writer, Edinburgh.

— At Cargilfield, Jane Rishton Hope, youngest daughter of Lieutenant-General Sir John Hope, G.C.H.

— At West Jessmond, near Newcastle, aged 68, Sir Thomas Burden, Knight, Lieut.-Col.-Commandant of the Tyne Yeomanry Hussars, and of the 2d Durham Local Militia, one of his Majesty's Justices of Peace for Northumberland, formerly an alderman of Newcastle, and Mayor.

27. At Dollar, Major James Robertson of Cray, late of his Majesty's 76th regiment.

28. At Redhouse, Mrs Agnes Hunter, widow of Dr John Carson, physician, Philadelphia, North America.

— At Craigie Park, near Perth, Robt. Peddie, Esq. city clerk of Perth.

— At Linlithgow, Miss Charlotte Baillic, youngest daughter of the late Lieut.-General Matthew Baillie.

— At the Manse of Culter, the Rev. Wm. Strachan, minister of that parish.

30. Killed off Buenos Ayres, in a severe action between the Argentine and Brazilian squadrons, Mr Andrew Lapslie, second son of the late Rev. Mr Lapslie of Campsie, near Glasgow.

— At Smiddyhaugh, John, son of John Buchanan of Smiddyhaugh.

— At Brighton, R. Ironmonger, Esq. M.P. for the borough of Stafford.

— Charles Hardinge, the infant son of Captain Menzies, 114, George Street.

— Here, Mr George Bristow, well known in the theatrical circles as a clown of considerable ability.

— At Edinburgh, Mrs Jean Wilson, relict of Mr Alexander Simpson, merchant, Dundee.

31. Lost off Rotterdam, by falling overboard, Alexander, second son of Alexander Deuchar, seal-engraver, Edinburgh.

— At his residence, Bromley Lodge, Kent, Stewart Erskine, Esq. in the 75th year of his age.

— At her house, 30, Royal Circus, Edinburgh, Mrs Montgomery.

— William Pearson of Harvieston, aged 78.

— At Glasgow, Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the late James Macintyre, Leith.

AUGUST 1. At Demerara, Mr Duncan Campbell, son of the late Neil Campbell of Knap, Esq.

2. At Barrackpore, East Indies, the Honourable Captain Amherst, son of the Governor-General.

— At Montreal, North America, David, second son of Alex. M'Gibbon, Esq. of Crawhill, town-clerk of Queensferry.

— At his house, in South Street, London, the Earl of Winchelsea, K.G. in his 47th year.

— At Windsor Street, Mary, eldest daughter of John Piper, Esq. of East Craigs.

— At Edinburgh, Louisa Ryder, wife of Mr Ryder, of the Caledonian Theatre.

4. John Lamb, Esq. younger of Temple-hall.

5. At her house, near Kirkaldy, aged 88, Mrs Martha Whyt, third daughter of the late Robert Whyt, Esq.

— At his house, at Singleton Brook, near Manchester, George Augustus Lee, Esq. of the house of Messrs Phillips and Lee.

— At Langton House, Berwickshire,

the Right Hon. Lady Elizabeth Gavl, mother of the Countess of Breadalbane, and sister to the Earl of Lauderdale.

5. At Edinburgh, Mrs Margaret Doig, wife of Mr John Kenmore, merchant, Edinburgh.

— At 17, Heriot Row, in his 51st year, Kenneth Macleay, Esq. of Newmore.

— At Hermitage Place, Mrs Magdalan Walker, wife of Richard Scougall, Esq. merchant, Leith.

6. At St Andrews, Mrs Helen Gardner, wife of Mr William Thoms.

— At Musselburgh, Marion Eliza, aged 14 months, youngest daughter of Mr Matthew Weir, W.S.

— At Edinburgh, Mrs Alison Swinton, wife of Dr John Maclean, physician.

— At Middlefield House, Leith Walk, John Swan, Esq. late of Hôlehouse, Dumfries-shire.

— At Edinburgh, aged 80, Mrs Euphan Honeyman, relict of George Taylor, Esq. of Thuro.

7. At Duddingston, Eliza Bell Aitken, youngest daughter of Mr John Aitken, Gayfield Square.

— At Whim, Charlotte Droz Montgomery, the infant daughter of Archibald Montgomery, Esq.

— At Innerleithen, William Gilchrist, Esq. merchant, one of the magistrates of the city of Edinburgh.

8. At her brother's house, 4, Hermitage Place, Leith Links, Miss Dorothea M'Kean, daughter of Mr And. M'Kean, 2, York Place.

— At Greenhill, in the parish of Deskford, George Black, at the great age of 163 years and six months.

— At Madras, Lieut. John Ogilvie Milne, of the 18th regiment native infantry, second son of Alexander George Milne, Esq. of London.

9. At Edinburgh, Adrian, fourth son of Lieutenant-General Sir John Hope, G.C.H.

— At Edinburgh, Henrietta, daughter of the late Hugh Crawford, Esq. Greenock.

10. At Ballater, James Dickson, Esq. merchant in Montrose, aged 78.

— At No. 8, Nicolson Street, Margaret Boyd, wife of Mr William Morrison.

10. At her house, in Forth Street, aged 76, Mrs Boyd, relict of Thomas Boyd, Esq. Dumfries.

— At Morningside, near Edinburgh, Mary, wife of Mr George Pickard, merchant, South Bridge.

— At the Manse of Anstruther Easter, Andrew Johnstone, Esq. of Pittowie, aged 82.

— George Ramsay, Esq. late of Inchrye.

11. At 116, George Street, Archibald C. Hope, third son of Lieut.-General Sir John Hope, G.C.H.

— At 60, George Street, Ann Warroch, the infant daughter of Dr Pursell.

— At Ayr, Lieut.-Colonel Robert Cameron, late of the Hon. East India Company's service.

— At Bainsford, Mr Robert Maclaren, superintendent of smith work, Carron iron works.

— At Madras, William Douglas Brodie, second son of the late James Brodie, Esq. of Brodie.

12. At Aberdeen, Miss Jane Stewart, second daughter of the late Mr John Stewart, Professor of Mathematics, Marischal College, Aberdeen.

— At Spring Garden, Jamaica, Mr James Somervail Bisset, son of Mr Adam Bisset, Leith.

— At Ayr, the Hon. Mrs Rollo.

13. At his house, Gaffield Square, Mr John Morren, late printer in Edinburgh.

— At sea, on his passage home from India, Mr James Mathie, son of Mr Benjamin Mathie, writer, Glasgow.

14. At his apartments, No. 13; Rue Royale, Paris, the Hon. Mr Basil Coghane.

— At Balerno, Mr James Kerr.

— At 6, Howard Place, Jane, second daughter of John Hislop, Esq. surgeon, London.

— At Stead Place, Leith Walk, Robert, the infant son of Mr John Paterson.

— At Leith, David J. Boyd, fourth son of Mr John Boyd, junior, merchant there.

— At Kirkaldy, Mr Simon Dempster, merchant, there.

— At Greenock, Mr James Findlater, eldest son of Alexander Findlater, Esq. Glasgow.

15. At her house, in Charlotte Street, Edinburgh, Mrs Margaret Moncrieff, relict of William Simpson, writer in Craik.

16. At Allan Park, Stirling, Charles Mercer, Esq.

— At Eymouth, aged 71, Miss Isabella Wightman.

— At Comely Bank, near Edinburgh, Miss Matilda Mary Downie Cullen, youngest daughter of Jas. Cullen, Esq.

17. At Arbroath, Mr William Muir, deputy-comptroller of his Majesty's Customs at that port.

— At Lugton, Miss Janet Pringle, daughter of the late James Pringle of Bowland, Esq.

18. At Inner Levin, Fife, David Anderson, Esq. late examiner of his Majesty's Customs, aged 87.

— At Salisbury Cottage, Elizabeth Jemima, infant daughter of Mr Douglas, accountant of the Commercial Bank of Scotland.

— At Lochore House, Fifeshire, Mrs Isabella Elder Husband Baird, wife of the very Rev. Dr G. H. Baird, Principal of the University of Edinburgh.

— At Minto Street, Margaret Murray, daughter of William Gordon, Esq. of Fife.

— At Alloa, Mr John McEllan, road-contractor, and late farmer at Auchinbaird.

— At Bridge of Don, Mr George Robertson.

19. At Paris, of a fever, occasioned by bathing whilst in a state of perspiration, T. Palmer, Esq. formerly of the 11th dragoons.

— At his house, Westmoreland Place, London, Benjamin Sword, Esq. formerly merchant, Glasgow. He has left bequests to the amount of £3300 to the most important charitable institutions in Glasgow, and £1000 to the London Missionary Society, to be paid without deduction of duty, or any charge whatever.

— At St Andrews, Miss Euphemia Frazer, daughter of the late David Frazer, Esq. of Brington.

20. At Burntisland, Miss J. Gulland.

— The Right Hon. Lady Sarah Napier, relict of the Hon. Colonel George Napier, and daughter of Charles, the second Duke of Richmond.

20. At Nassau, New Providence, Lieutenant Archibald Fraser, paymaster of the 2d West India regiment, formerly of the 92d Highlanders.

21. At the Manse of Crieff, William, eldest son of the Rev. William Laing.

— At Pitcairn, Jane Elder Willins, wife of the Rev. William Willins.

— At London, Mr Peter Morrison, of Philpot Lane, Fenchurch Street, leather-seller.

— At his house, in Argyll Square, Dr John Barclay, for many years an eminent teacher of anatomy, and a distinguished ornament of the medical school of Edinburgh.

— At Annat Farm, near Fort William, John Kennedy, Esq. some time of Grenada.

22. At Morningside, while on furlough from India in bad health, Lieut. William Grant, of the Hon. East India Company's service, aged 23, son of the late Alexander Grant, Esq. W.S.

— At Naples, in his 80th year, the celebrated astronomer, Piazzi, of the order of the Theolines, discoverer of the planet Ceres.

— George Morgan, Esq. jun. of Kirkaldy. He was shot in a duel with David Landale, Esq. of the same place.

23. At 1, Erskine Place, Edinburgh, Mrs Catherine Bruguier, late of Hoddesdon, Herts.

— At Peebles, Mr James Brydon, surgeon.

— At Rothesay, Geo. Alfred, youngest son of Lieut.-Colonel McNeill.

— At his house, Bridge Street, Glasgow, Captain D. Macarthur, late 100th regiment.

— At Gorbals, Glasgow, Mr Alexander Campbell, aged 65. He was elder brother of the celebrated Mr Thomas Campbell, the poet.

— At Haddington, Sarah Fairbairn, wife of Mr William Ferme, saddler.

24. At Slateford, Lieutenant George Lawrence Robertson, on the half-pay of the Honourable East India Company's service.

— At Newington, Isabella Baxter, wife of Mr James Bruce, hosier, Edinburgh.

— At Camberwell, Surrey, Thomas

Shortreed, Esq. procurator fiscal of the county of Roxburgh.

25. At Southfield Cottage, Wm. Kerr, Esq. merchant in Leith.

26. At Dalzell House, John Fenton Hamilton, only son of A. J. Hamilton, Esq.

— At his house in Hampstead, the Hon. C. H. Hutchinson, who was returned for the seventh time, at the last election, to serve in Parliament for the city of Cork.

27. At Edinburgh, Miss Lindsay Douglas, youngest daughter of the late Col. Wm. Ann Douglas of Strathendry.

— At Kirkwall, James, youngest son of Captain Balfour, royal navy, of Elwick.

— At Dunkeld, Major Hugh Stewart, late of the 75th regiment.

— At Carbrook, Stirlingshire, Miss Ann Smith, eldest daughter of the deceased Rev. Archibald Smith, minister of Kinross.

28. At Dalkeith, Samuel Paterson of Lindsaylands, in the 84th year of his age.

29. At the house of his son, Dr John Aitkin, surgeon and lecturer on anatomy, Edinburgh, Mr Robert Aitkin, formerly of Kirkpatrick Fleming, Dumfriesshire, in the 82d year of his age.

— At his house, No. 22, Queen Street, Captain Patrick Hunter, late of the Hon. East India Company's service.

— At Port-au-Prince, Charles Gordon, Esq. vice-consul to the British government.

— At St Andrews, Mrs Duncan, aged 82, relict of Mr John Duncan, tenant of Stonywynd.

31. At Edinburgh, Mrs Annabella Pollok, relict of Gavin Ralston of Ralston, Esq.

— At East Moulsey, Lieut.-Colonel Archibald Ross.

— Near Bourdeaux, Anne, wife of Samuel Anderson, Esq.

32. At the Manse of Slains, the Rev. Dr George Pirie, minister of that parish, in the 66th year of his age, and 23d of his ministry.

33. At Low Dunsforth, near Borough Bridge, Charles Stephenson, aged 102.

— At his house, in Stratton Street, Pic-

Chichester, London, the Right Hon. Earl of Chichester, one of the Postmasters General.

SEPTEMBER 1. Alexander Lumsdane, Esq. of Claremont, St Dorothy, Jamaica, son of Harry Lumsdane, Esq. of Belhelvie.

— At Buccleuch Place, Mrs Olivia Munro, wife of John Munro, Esq. late of the island of Grenada.

2. At Hamburg, on his way to Copenhagen, the celebrated Danish poet, J. Baggesen, well known in the literature of his country.

3. At Boghead, Mrs Janet Durham, wife of the Rev. Alex. Weir.

— At Drayton, Buckinghamshire, after a very short illness, General Sir Harry Calvert, Bart.

— At Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dr Jas. Anderson, fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

4. At Dawson's Cottage, Miss Grogan, daughter of the late Gavin Grogan, Esq. of Lockbank, Newabbey.

— At Glamis, Miss Elizabeth Procter, daughter of the late John Procter, Esq. sheriff-substitute of the shires of Perth and Nairn.

5. At his house, 23, Great King Street, Edinburgh, Henry Wood, Esq.

— At Edinburgh, Thomas Grierson, Esq. W.S.

6. At Hammersmith, Colonel James Maitland, of the 81th regiment.

— At Dunbar, Walter Simpson, Esq. merchant and ship-owner, aged 84 years.

7. At the Palace, Litchfield, in the 76th year of his age, Sir Charles Oakley, Bart. D.C.L. formerly Governor of Madras.

— At her house, in Forth Street, in her 90th year, Mrs Helen Dunmore, relict of Hugh Blackburn, Esq. Glasgow.

8. At Manchester, Jean Dalrymple, youngest daughter of Wm. Cochrane Anderson, Esq. royal horse artillery.

— At Edinburgh, Thomas Mannors, Esq. W.S. and one of the depute clerks of Session.

— At Portobello, Thos. Irvine Smith, Esq. of Smiddyburn and Pettans.

— At the Manse of Kingarth, after a short illness, the Rev. Joseph Stuart, minister of that parish, in the 29th year of his age, and second of his ministry.

10. At Edinburgh, Mrs Catherine Ross, relict of Mr Walter Ferguson, late candlemaker.

— At his mother's house at Leslie, William Malcolm, Esq. M.D. son of the deceased Sir John Malcolm of Balbedie, Bart.

— At Kelso, Isabella Henderson, wife of Mr William Hewat, accountant, Commercial Bank of Scotland, Kelso.

— At Belfast, Mrs Mackay, wife of Mr Alexander Mackay, late proprietor of the Belfast News Letter.

11. At his lodgings, Marine Parade, Dover, after only two days' illness, the Right Hon. Robert Lord Gifford, Master of the Rolls, Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, &c. in his 48th year. The learned lord's complaint was inflammation of the bowels, or cholera morbus.

— In the island of Jamaica, David Finlay of Ardoch, Esq. in the parish of St Ann's.

13. At Dewar's Mill, near St Andrews, Mr James Tod, in the 90th year of his age.

— At Leith, Mr Walter Bruce, merchant.

— At Haddington, Mr Robert Roughhead, aged 87 years.

— Mrs Stewart of Sweethope, in her 87th year.

14. At Edinburgh, Anne Louisa, fourth daughter of Lieutenant-General Sir John Hope, G.C.H.

— At Kinross, Mr John McGregor, formerly of Brechin, and late of the customs, Leith.

15. At Burntisland, James Aiken, Esq. chief magistrate of that burgh.

16. At Malta, Captain Wm. Forbes, eldest son of Sir William Forbes of Pittsligo, Bart.

— At Edinburgh, Elizabeth Anne Tod, daughter of Mr James Stormonth Darling, W.S.

17. At Largo, Mrs Durham of Largo, the lady of Lieut.-General Durham.

— At Hilton, near Inverkeithing, Mr John Newton, merchant, Leith.

— At Ayr, Mr David Gibson, treasurer of that burgh.

— At Musselburgh, Mrs Jean Cockrane, relict of Mr James Cowan, candlemaker, Edinburgh.

17. At Linlithgow, Mrs Jean Henderson, relict of Mr David Potter, farmer, Pleasance, East Lothian.

— At Rankellor Street, Edinburgh, Captain John Fraser, formerly of the 42d Royal Highlanders.

— At Edinburgh, Ann, eldest daughter of Mr Alexander Howden, Scotland Street.

18. At his house, 8, East Thistle Street, Edinburgh, Mr John Blair Hunter, aged 64.

— At Dalkeith, Robert John, youngest son of Dr Morison.

— At Edinburgh, Mr Robt. Paterson, saddler.

19. At Islabank House, James Ogilvie, Esq. of Islabank.

21. At Haughand Cottage, near Elgin, Mrs Catherine Forsyth, aged 57, wife of Mr J. Forsyth, bookseller in Elgin.

22. At his house, Manchester Street, London, Lieut.-General John Baillie, late of the Hon. East India Company's Bombay establishment.

— At 132, Prince's Street, Thomas Martin, Esq. writer, Edinburgh.

23. At Monte Grande, South America, Mr Dav. Anderson, Athelstaneford, East Lothian.

24. At Musselburgh, Mrs Sarah Falconer, relict of John Taylor, A.M. rector of the grammar school.

25. At Forfar, Lieut. John Stevenson, R.N.

— At Lausanne, of aneurism of the heart, the Ex-Queen of Sweden.

— At Primrosehill, Berwickshire, Mr Robert Dudgeon.

26. At London, Major Walter Jollie, of the Madras native infantry.

— At Kingsbride, Devon, Henrietta Augusta, widow of Captain Archibald Campbell.

— At Kingston, Upper Canada, deeply regretted by his congregation, the Rev. John Barclay, minister of the Presbyterian Church there, son of the Rev. Dr Barclay, minister of Kettle, Fife.

27. At St Petersburg, of the typhus fever, Lady Porter, wife of Sir Robert Ker Porter, his Majesty's consul at Caracas.

— At his seat, Gisburne Park, near Skipton in Craven, in his 72d year, the Right Hon. Lord Ribblesdale.

28. At Leith, Mr James Pollok, merchant.

— At Aberdeen, Andrew Davidson, Esq. advocate.

— At Baltic Street, Leith, Miss Aitken.

29. In the Canongate, John Macdonald, aged above 111 years.

30. At St Andrews, Mrs Methven.

OCTOBER. At Kaira, Presidency of Bombay, Robert Anderson, Esq. of the East India Company's civil service, youngest son of the late Mr Samuel Anderson, Moredun.

— At the College of Montevideo, near Havre de Grace, Archibald Buchanan, second son of William Buchanan, Esq.

1. At No. 3, Fyfe Place, Leith Walk, Mrs Ranken, relict of Mr Francis Ranken.

— At Southampton, Major-General Wm. Fawcett, Governor of Limerick.

— At North Berwick, Mrs Willett, widow of John Willett, Esq. of Stoke, Devon.

— Suddenly, of apoplexy, at Inverkeithing, Mr Robert Dykes, master of the Lazaret, and acting comptroller of the customs.

At Poona, Lieut. Walter Stewart, of the 24th regiment Bombay native infantry, son of the late Charles Stewart, Esq.

3. At Ormiston Lodge, East Lothian, Mrs Agnes Wight, of Arthur Street, Edinburgh, in the 78th year of her age.

4. Robert, fourth and youngest son of the late Hugh Leslie, Esq. of Poltalloch.

— At Glasgow, Mrs Jane Buchanan, wife of William Waddell, Esq. writer.

— At his house, Rosemount, Peter Wood, Esq. late merchant in Leith, in the 78th year of his age.

5. At Skelmuir, George Russel, Esq. W.S.

— At Bantelu, Hanover, the Russian General Count V. Benningsen. His abilities and valour in the war in Poland obtained him brilliant rewards; he fought the celebrated battles of Eylau and Friedland in 1806; and, in 1813, he commanded the army in Poland, and took a conspicuous part in the battle of Leipsic. At the peace he settled in his native country, and died in the bosom of his family, aged 81.

5. At Kingston, Jamaica, Jas. Grant, Esq. surviving co-partner of Messrs Jas. and Charles Grant, many years respectable merchants in that city.

8. At Edinburgh, Mrs Margaret Coulter, widow of William Coulter, Esq. formerly Lord Provost of the city of Edinburgh.

— At 11, Dundas Street, Patrick Meiklejohn of Scotland.

— The infant son of Major-General the Hon. P. Stuart.

9. At Southampton, Charles Mills, Esq. the celebrated historian.

— At her house, in Shadwick Place, Sophia Henrietta Wharton, fifth daughter of William, Earl of Fife, and widow of Thomas Wharton, Esq. one of his Majesty's Commissioners of Excise in Scotland.

— At Camberwell, London, Mary, youngest daughter of Mr James Sefon, Seton House, East-Lothian.

10. At Edinburgh, Isabella Heron, infant daughter of Dr Macaulay, North St David Street.

11. At Balgray Hill, near Glasgow, Alexander, aged 5 years, youngest son of Mr Archibald Ryfe, Weekly Chronicle office.

— At Newton Manse, Ayr, the Rev. William Peebles, D.D. in the 75th year of his age, and 49th of his ministry.

— In London, Isobel Barclay, wife of the Rev. William Fortesque, rector of George Nympton and Wear Gifford, and daughter of the late James Christie, Esq. of Durie, Wiltshire.

12. Mrs Agnes Home, youngest daughter of the late Mr George Home, baker in Edinburgh.

— William, eldest son of Mr Thomas Stevenson, general agent, Milne Square.

13. At Bankhouse, Troqueur, George Gillespie, Esq. of Windmills.

14. Suddenly, at London, Mr Connor, of Covent Garden theatre.

15. At Hawick, Mrs Dickson of Housebyers.

— At Comrie, the Rev. Samuel Gillfillan, minister of the United Associate Congregation there, in the 64th year of his age, and 36th of his ministry.

16. At London, Mr George Proudfoot, formerly candlemaker at Leith.

16. At London, William Shanks, Esq. late of Calcutta.

— At Rathobank, George Veitch, Esq. of Rathobank, writer to the signet.

— At 7, Howe Street, the infant son of Mr Alexander.

— At her house, Buccleuch Place, Mrs Margaret Scott, relict of the Rev. Roger Moodie, minister of Monymenal.

— At his house, 1, Heriot Row, on the 16th inst. Peter Spalding, Esq. formerly of Calcutta, aged 68. Mr Spalding was a native of Edinburgh, and when young went out to India, where he realized a considerable fortune, the whole of which he has conveyed to the directors of the Royal Institution for the encouragement of the Fine Arts in Scotland, for the support of decayed and superannuated associated artists connected with that institution.

17. At Edinburgh, the Rev. Dr Geo. Wright, one of the ministers of Stirling.

— At Rothesay, Alexander McLearn, Esq. late Lieutenant-Colonel of the 2d West India regiment.

— At Ruby Cottage, David Lyall, Esq. W.S. eldest son of Alexander Lyall, Esq. comptroller of the customs, Aberdeen.

— At London, Mr John Charteris, shipowner, of Leith.

18. Mr Robert Tweedie, youngest son of the deceased Mr Alexander Tweedie, late in Dreva.

— At 19, London Street, Mrs Richard Gardner.

19. At Paris, aged 67, the celebrated tragedian, Talma. He preserved all his intellectual faculties to the last hour of his life. He felt no pain, and complained only of having a cloud before his eyes.

— At Whalebank, Newhaven, Mrs Margaret Lockhart, relict of Wm. Lockhart, writer in Edinburgh.

— At Leith, Mr Alexander Patison, merchant there, eighth and youngest son of the late Mr John Patison, town-clerk of Leith.

20. At Campbelton, Charles Rowatt, Esq. surgeon, in his 95th year.

21. At the Manse of Rothiemay, the Rev. Dr James Simmie, minister of that parish.

— At Dumfries, David Staig, Esq. for

several years chief magistrate of that place.

21. At her house, 10, Hope Street, Miss Hill, daughter of the late Jas. Hill, Esq. sen. Glasgow.

— At Rotherhithe, London, of typhus fever, caught in the discharge of his professional duty, Mr John Beveridge, late assistant-surgeon of the Royal George East Indiaman.

22. At his house, Inverleith Road, Charles Hay, Esq.

— At Edinburgh, Charles Tawse, Esq. writer to the signet.

— In the New Road, London, Mrs Eliza Forbes, wife of Lieut.-Gen. Benjamin Forbes.

— At Rotterdam, James Gibson, Esq. merchant there.

24. At Geneva, the Hon. and Rev. Robert Samuel Leslie Melville, fourth son of Alexander, late Earl of Leven and Melville.

25. At Dunfermline, Miss Isabella Sutherland, second daughter of the late John Sutherland, Esq. of Wester, in the county of Caithness.

26. At Perth, Mr George Whitehead, teacher of modern languages in the Perth academy.

— At Clifton, Martin Whish, Esq. late chairman of the Board of Excise.

— At Edinburgh, the infant son of Robert Eckford, Esq.

27. At London, Mr Alderman Magray, an eminent stationer in the metropolis. He recently filled the office of Lord Mayor, and was highly respected as a magistrate and a citizen.

— At Bellevue Place, near Linlithgow, Dr William Crawford of Littleton.

— At No. 5, Pilgrimage Street, Hugh Reoch, Esq. late of Forth Bank.

— At No. 2, Surgeon Square, Agnes Hume, youngest daughter of Mr James Lockhart.

— At Mount Marie, near Roslin, Captain Duncan Macrae, late of the Black Rangers.

— At 2, Bellevue Crescent, William Edmonstone, second son of Mr Ruthersford of the Customs.

28. At the Manse of Borthwick, Miss Wright.

— At Dunse, Alexander Christie, Esq. of Grueldykes.

29. At her house, Laurieston Place, Mrs Marion Bradfute, widow of the Rev. James Bradfute, curate of Market Deeping, in the county of Lincoln.

30. At Calais, on his return to England, Augustus Donaldson, Esq. commander in the royal navy.

— At Pathhead, Fife, Mrs Thomas Thomson, relict of the Rev. Thomas Thomson, minister there.

— At Kingston, Robert Hamilton, Esq. late of Hamilton's, Jamaica.

31. At Barry's Hotel, Edinburgh, Stephen Shairp, late his Britannic Majesty's Consul-General at St Petersburg.

— At his house, Dysart, Capt. John Reddie of Redhouse, late master attendant, Madras.

— At New York, Mr John Patrick, merchant there, second son of the late John Patrick, Esq. of Trearne, Ayrshire.

— At Blackheath, Eleanor Henrietta Victoria, daughter and only child of the Right Hon. F. J. Robinson.

Lately, At Ava, Mr George Sutherland, officer on board the Alexander, Company's ship, and son of the late Captain George Sutherland, of the 45th foot. He had been taken prisoner by the Burmese, along with a boat's crew, when watering on that coast, and died during his confinement.

— At Southwell, aged 97, the Rev. W. Law, vicar of Durham and vicar of Kneesall. He had held the former living 70 years, and the latter 66.

— At his house, Vanbrugh Place, Leith, Mr George Patterson. He had been 45 years in his Majesty's naval service, and was master of the Venerable, Lord Duncan's flag-ship, in the memorable action off Camperdown.

— At Cupar, Angus, Mr James Shaw, stationer, Hill Square, Edinburgh.

NOVEMBER 1. Of typhus fever, in the 34th year of his age, Mr Thrift Scott, farmer at Barnyards of Dalgaty, and proprietor of the Mountblair distillery Banffshire.

2. At Carlisle, Mr Francis Jollie, proprietor of the Carlisle Journal.

— At Comely Green, Mrs Hannah Broughton, wife of Thomas Feat, Esq. writer to the signet.

3. At Littleton, Perthshire, (after be

